



South Central Assembly
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
September 17, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.
National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg

Officers:

- [p] Jo Ellen Litz
- [p] Steven Peterson
- [e] Glenn Snyder
- [p] Raymond Klein
- [p] Nancy Besch

Members

- [] Robert Anspach
- [e] Mark Berg
- [] Daniel Betancourt
- [e] Harrison Bink
- [e] Gail D'Angelo
- [] Michael Fesen
- [] Mauree Gingrich
- [] Richard Gray
- [p] Barbara Groce
- [e] Francis B Haas
- [e] Irving Hand
- [p] Roger T. Karsnitz
- [p] George Klaus ¹
- [e] Julie Lalo ^{2*}
- [] Joe McCarthy
- [p] Skip Memmi
- [p] Russ Montgomery
- [e] Penny Myers
- [e] Susan Parry ³
- [p] Stephen Powell
- [p] Stephen Reed ^{**}
- [] George Rettew

- [] Christopher Reiley
- [e] Rusty Shunk
- [p] Ann Simonetti
- [t] Steve Snell
- [] Ted Streeter
- [] Michael Sturla
- [e] Rose Marie Swanger
- [] Ken Taylor
- [] William Troxell
- [p] Boyd Wolff
- [e] Lori Yeich ^{***}
- [] Merrill Yohe
- [] Bob Ziobrowski
- [e] Craig Zumbrun

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Others Attending:

- ** Ed Nielsen
- Sherri Zimmerman (Executive Director)
- Stephen Scanlon (Staff)

Attendance Key:

- e - excused absence (prior contact)
- p - present
- t - telephone

1 Ex Officio USDA
2 Ex Officio 10,000 Friends of PA
3 Ex Officio RC&D

Call to Order

The board president called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Snell, participated through a telephone conference connection.

Executive Director's Report

Appended to minutes.

Approval of the Minutes of July 16, 2008

Ms. Simonetti offered several minor changes, which were accepted.

Ms. Simonetti made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Mr. Peterson.

No further discussion

Vote on the motion: Unanimous approval.

National Civil War Museum Host Welcome

Mr. Nielson, a board member of the National Civil War Museum, welcomed the Assembly Board. He and a member of the museum's education staff provided an overview of the scope of what the museum offers, emphasizing that the museum puts the Civil War into perspective as an instrument of social change. They emphasized that the museum tells a balanced story of the war, told through vignettes that help to make it personal for the visitor.

The reason for sighting a Civil War museum in Harrisburg grew out of Camp Kirk, in Harrisburg. It was the largest Union Army camp and the city, a major transportation hub, was a target of the Confederate advance into Pennsylvania. Its capture would have isolated Washington D.C.

The museum offers conference and event space as well as educational outreach. The view of the Susquehanna Valley from its hilltop location is remarkable.

Nominating Committee

Ms. Besch reports that it is a work is in process.

Emeritus Board Membership Status

The language to amend the South Central Assembly bylaws to include board member Emeritus Status having been property advertised, Ms. Besch moved the following:

Section 4.10: Emeritus Status – Meritorious status can be given by the Board to any Officer or Director who has exhausted their elected and/or appointed terms on the Board. Members of the Assembly Board of Directors who have served at least one full term as a board member; chaired at least one committee; and exhibited outstanding leadership, vision, and dedication during their term of service are eligible for the honorary title of Board Member Emeritus. Eligible members will be granted the title of Board Member Emeritus by a majority vote immediately following their term of service. The title of Board Member Emeritus entitles those board members to lifetime benefits of membership and the invitation to remain an active member of the Board, attend Assembly functions, and serve on committees. This status does not provide the right to vote on decisions of the Board.

Motion seconded by Mr. Snell.

Discussion: Ms. Simonetti expressed her concern about an emeritus member needing to have chaired a committee. Mr. Peterson opined that the intent was covered by the following line about leadership. Ms. Besch expressed that it is important to keep people on as emeritus members

rather than have them drop off. Ms. Litz suggested emeritus members may be inclined to write the Assembly into their wills.

Ms. Besch and Mr. Snell agreed to strike “chaired at least one committee” from their motion.

No further discussion

Vote on the motion: Unanimous approval.

Membership Compliance Issues

Ms. Groce motioned that letters be sent to inactive members inviting their active participation or resignation.

Seconded by Ms. Simonetti

Vote on the motion: Unanimous approval

Ms. Besch recommended personal notes accompany the formal note.

Land Use

Mr. Wolff asked if the Board wanted to reactivate the committee.

Ms. Litz expressed support if there was interest. Ms. Besch noted that it is a hot topic, especially with growth of demand for corn-based ethanol. Mr. Montgomery made the connection between what is going on with corn-based energy demand and Chesapeake Bay pollution indicating that there needs to be a way to address the tensions. The energy issues are making thoughtful land use a vital concern. Mr. Montgomery agreed to join with Mr. Wolff to pursue this line of thinking. Ms. Simonetti also agreed to participate.

Ms. Zimmerman indicated that this is a topic that can be further developed at a board retreat. Mr. Klaus indicated that a lot of time would be wasted if the retreat will not be until next year. Mr. Montgomery recommended reactivation now with the committee beginning to flush out the issues now. Mr. Klaus agreed. Ms. Zimmerman and Mr. Montgomery agreed to share administrative support between Assembly and REDDI staff.

Health and Human Services

Mr. Peterson reported that he was unable to draw interest from his contacts at Hershey Medical Center. He will work with Mr. Zimmerman to brainstorm.

Housing, Predatory Lending and Community Development

The next meeting will be October 14. (Moved from September due to speaker unavailability). The themes will be green building, the new federal housing act, the state housing trust fund, home energy affordability gap, and a county affordable housing efforts round table.

Special Task Force on the Chesapeake Bay

Mr. Wolff expressed that there are so many other agencies involved with the Chesapeake that he didn't know how the Assembly could be involved in the process.

Ms. Simonetti noted that Senate Bill 2 includes \$800 million and additionally a \$400 million bond referendum to invest in sewer projects will appear as a referendum on the Nov ballot. She agreed to work with Mr. Wolff to develop a letter in support of the bond issue.

2008 Summit

The \$5,000 grant from the City of Harrisburg was received. Follow up with DCED for its grant is in process. The energy consortium is a summit outcome that will satisfy some of the conditions of the grant.

Energy Consortium

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the energy consortium legal documents between Benchmark Energy Solutions, the City of Harrisburg and the Assembly are finalized. Mr. Jim Turner, Esq. volunteered to review them in the near future.

While at the American Public Works Organization conference in New Orleans, Ms. Zimmerman made contacts concerning setting up a series of energy education sessions. Once a legal review is complete the Assembly can start putting the word out.

The board can hold an electronic vote on the contract once the legal review is complete with a follow up confirmation vote at the November meeting.

Motion by Mr. Klein that:

The use of electronic devices including email and telephone may be permitted for the purpose of a vote on the energy consortium contract. The question shall be subject to a vote of confirmation at the next board meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Snell.

No further discussion.

Vote on the Motion: Unanimous approval

Collaboration with DCED

Nothing to report.

WAM (Community Revitalization Funds)

Mr. Peterson completed the application. Ms. Zimmerman reported that this is a priority topic for the November meeting.

Keystone Opportunity Zone

The KOZ program is undergoing change and the Assembly's contract to provide local coordination services runs out in one year. Ms. Zimmerman and Mr. Scanlon attended a DCED training on new developments in KOZ. Mr. Scanlon is communicating the information to local KOZ coordinators and county economic and redevelopment authorities. Ms. Zimmerman is following up with concerned agencies including Mr. Dave Black of CREDC.

Board Retreat

Ms. Zimmerman proposed a four hour facilitated board retreat.

Mr. Peterson agreed that it is needed because there has been considerable change within the Assembly.

Mr. Karsnitz opined that he saw no need for an outside facilitator. There is ample talent among the board members. He also expressed that the sooner a retreat the better.

Mr. Klaus asked if the focus would be for strategic planning. He also expressed the need that participants should want to be active.

Ms. Zimmerman indicated that it would be focused and that there would be advance exercises. She noted that an outside facilitator adds value because a person cannot concentrate on the roles of coordinator and participant at the same time. She also noted that she can call on a facilitator who will provide services at no cost.

Mr. Klein expressed a desire for the retreat to be focused.

Discussion determined that the retreat will last from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with a catered lunch. December 5, 2008 was settled on for the date.

Ms. Zimmerman expressed that the retreat will be an opportunity for involving new board members to become engaged. Mr. Klaus asserted that the event should provide an inducement to engage people.

Next Board Meeting

The November board meeting date was moved to Thursday, November 13 in order that it not conflict with the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania conference, which will occupy several members and staff.

Assembly Web Site

Ms. Zimmerman sought approval to pay a modest hourly rate for web site work to be done by a colleague. In addition, she needs to update the software of the Assembly's laptop computer with initial expenses estimated at \$70 for Front Page software. Ms. Zimmerman noted that she will be doing some of the manipulative work herself.

Ms. Litz expressed that cleaning up the web site would involve minimal work in the range of two to three hours.

Mr. Peterson made the motioned that:

The Assembly authorized the Executive Director to contract for web services and for software to upgrade the Assembly's laptop.

Seconded by Ms. Simonetti.

Discussion: nothing further

Vote on the motion: Unanimous approval.

Good of the Order

Mr. Klein recommends an effort be made to involve the board in other parts of the community including leadership in business and industry. Connections need to be made by identifying these leaders' interests and appealing to them.

Ms. Zimmerman sent a letter of support to the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania in support of a state housing trust fund. This became part of the Alliance's advocacy that succeeded in winning the support of the state Assembly.

Mr. Peterson promoted an October 29 conference on managing storm water locally at the Wildwood Conference Center.

Motion to Adjourn

Made by Mr. Montgomery

Seconded by Mr. Klaus

Vote on the Motion: Unanimous Approval

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 3:00 – 5:00. Location to be determined.