

South Central Assembly

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2013, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PSU – Capital Campus

Olmstead, Room 300C

**Attending:** Charles Blankenship, Phil Briddell, Matt Candland, Beverly Cigler, David Davare, Chris Gulotta, George Klaus, Edward Knittel, Ann Stacey, Kris Troup, and Craig Zumbrun, and staff, Stephen Scanlon (minutes). Attending via telephone: Nancy Besch, Penny Myers, Stephen Powell, Steve Snell, and Sherri Zimmerman.

**Call to order**: The meeting opened at 3:10 p.m., President Peterson presiding.

**Approval of minutes.**

A motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2012 was made. The motion was unanimously approved without comment.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Program Committee Reports**

Community Revitalization

Snell and Troup reported, presenting a draft of a committee mission statement, noting that it is in development:

To provide a venue for the discussion of regional community revitalization challenges; to promote sharing and evaluation of initiatives; to assess best practices; and to advocate for tools to renew the health of our urban communities.

An example of what might be accomplished is an inventory of regulatory initiatives involving smart growth, blight, and public/private partnerships. They noted a concern not to overlap their focus with the Housing and Community Development Committee.

Housing & Community Development

Klaus and Zumbrun reported, proposing the following to revitalize the Housing & Community Development Committee to support the following general goals and purposes:

* Provide education and share information on affordable / workforce housing in the eight-county south central region for housing practitioners, agencies, lenders and other interested organizations and parties;
* Provide a forum for advocacy on affordable / workforce housing issues for south central Pennsylvania agencies and organizations, and an informal regional affiliation with the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania (HAP); and
* Provide a dynamic organization to bring county housing committees together to actively represent regional housing interests with an attendance goal of 50 or more members per meeting from all counties of the region.

An electronic survey is in planning that would identify the interests of those who might be

engaged.

There followed a discussion about the community development part of the Housing and Community Development Committee name. The committee has historically been housing-focused and the community development field is greater than housing. Economic development, community revitalization, and land use are terms with similar gamut appeal. Should a committee focus its name on its focus? The issue was not resolved.

Local Government

Cigler and Knittel reported:

They are focusing energy on a long-term project to help prepare local government for a transition that they believe is taking place between state and local government. The committee proposes addressing the preparing of local governments for a constitutional convention so that they will be able to advocate effectively for their interests.

There followed a discussion that the Assembly has had a history of addressing through education and studies best practices such as regional planning, regional policing, and multi-municipality bulk purchasing. Some thought there was value to continuing with this sort of shorter-term focus. The issue will be considered.

Regional Council of Colleges

Peterson reported, the proposed purpose of the Committee:

When the Committee is fully constituted, including representatives from regional colleges and universities, the Committee’s purpose will be to facilitate communication among educational institutions, to involve these institutions in an organized manner in Assembly events (such as Summits and workshops) and to explore and share “best practices” in areas such as economic development, community outreach, making research capacity available to the larger community, and other domains of mutual interest. With time, the purpose of this committee could evolve as needs change. Colleges and universities would use the Council to better link themselves to larger communities and to address issues of interest within the region, as well as to share “best practices” with one another.

In addition, the committee could facilitate exploration of “town and gown” practices. A list of higher education institutions will help the committee to focus on reach out to that community.

**Administrative Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Ann Simonetti has resigned from the board.

Finance Committee - No report

Nominations Committee - No report

Treasure - No change to report

**For the General Good of the Order**

None

**Adjournment**

With business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting February 20, 2013, 3:00 p.m. at PSU. Location tbd.

Call in number: tbd