

SCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (G Klaus)

May 8, 2013, 3:00 P.M. (in lieu of the April 17 meeting)

Penn State University, Olmsted Bldg, Room 306

Attendance: Steve Peterson, Steve Snell, Matt Candland, Ray Klein, Ed Knittel, Dave Davare, Bev Cigler, Kari Reagan, Phil Bridell, RoseMarie Swanger, George Klaus; Phone - Ann Stacey, Sherri Zimmerman, Tony Salomone, Craig Zumbrun, Ray D'Agostino, and Gail D’Angelo

1. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Peterson
2. The minutes of the February 20, 2013 Board meeting were approved without changes
3. Old Business
4. New Business
   1. Nominations Committee
      1. Election of Officers: The Nominations Committee (Klaus, Davare, Swanger, Zumbrun) presented the following as officer candidates: Steve Snell, President Chris Gulotta as Vice President; Dave Davare as Treasurer; George Klaus as Secretary. No further nominations were presented from the floor. President Peterson called for a vote for the slate as presented, and all members present voted for the slate. Peterson thanked the Nominations Committee for their efforts. Peterson continued to chair the meeting - new officers will assume his duties after the meeting.
      2. President Elect Snell thanked the Board for their vote of confidence, thanked the current officers, and noted that he will meet with the Executive Committee to begin charting new direction for the Assembly. Mr Snell thanked Steve Scanlon for his long and continuing volunteer administrative efforts on behalf of the Assembly
      3. New Board Candidates:
         1. The Nominations Committee presented Michelle Crowley, Executive Director of the Greater Carlisle Chamber of Commerce, and Kathy Possinger, Executive Director of the Tri County Community Action Commission as candidates for the Board. A motion to accept Ms Crowley and Ms Possinger as Board members was made, seconded and carried.
         2. Mr. Klaus noted that we have 7 vacancies, and that the Nominations Committee has made inquiry of several other potential candidates for the Board, and will represent other candidates at future meetings. Klaus noted the following gaps in Board membership- representation from Adams, Perry, and Franklin Counties; representatives from several sectors including municipalities, counties, business, non profits, banking, engineering, public schools,. The Committee feels there is also a need for further diversity and younger members on the board. A list of potential candidates was circulated at the meeting, and is attached to these minutes.
   2. Treasurers Report - Ray Klein noted at last count SCA had about $6,000 in its bank account
   3. Community Revitalization Committee - no report
   4. Local Government Committee - no report
   5. Housing and Community Development Committee-
      1. George Klaus reported on the 4/10/13 Regional Housing Forum held at PSU Middletown in cosponsor ship with the Housing Alliance of Pa. 50 + people attended, evaluations were very good; 6 persons volunteered to assist the H&CD Committee with further planning activity; Presentations were made by John Kromer, Chris Gulotta, Kathy Possinger, and Joyce Sacco on a variety of housing topics; The Forum will provide a good basis for future SCA H&CD endeavors
      2. As a result of the Forum, SCA's H&CD Committee will delay its planned 9/13 Regional Housing Summit, in deference to Ray D'Agostino's concern that it will conflict with the 10/13 Lancaster County Housing Summit. SCA will cosponsor the Lancaster County Housing Summit. SCA will conduct its Regional Housing Summit in York in April of 2014, in conjunction with the York Housing Advisory Commission and York Housing Task Force - the planned York Summit will become a Regional Housing Summit, in partnership with the York County agencies.
   6. Regional Council of Colleges -
      1. Steve Peterson reported that Rusty Shunk, former SCA Board member and Dickinson College official has agreed to join the RCOC committee, along with Melissa Keebler, Dickinson's current Community Outreach staffer.
      2. RCOC is planning an event that will focus on several case studies illustrating best practices in college - community relations, with Dickinson and Franklin and Marshall as possible candidates.
      3. RCOC is also recommending that college students have a free or discounted admission to SCA events. Discussion ensued, with Bev Cigler recommending that colleges should recruit and pay for student attendance at SCA events at a discounted rate. Break and Meal costs should be covered by the discounted rates. All present agreed with this general concept
   7. Finance and revenue - no report ; Committee not yet organized
   8. Presentation and Discussion of Prevailing Wage Issue
      1. Steve Peterson introduced the discussion, noting that the Board had taken policy positions on issues of import to our communities in the past, and that perhaps the discussion to follow could lead to SCA taking a position to help advance the issue.
      2. Ed Knittel provided a wide ranging discussion of the current Prevailing Wage Issue, and its effects on municipalities, counties, authorities and school districts Ed provide a handout, which has been distributed to the Board. Key points in the discussion included:
         1. The $25,000 project threshold has not been updated, and if it had been it would-be approximately $188,000 in current dollars
         2. Prevailing Wage inflates municipal project costs by a significant percentage , perhaps 10 to 20%, resulting in fewer public projects and increased taxpayer costs
         3. Higher wage rates from the Philadelphia area are applied statewide, inflating municipal costs
         4. Labor Unions are firmly in favor of the current situations
         5. Knittel felt that change was unlikely, but Representative Swanger noted that the vote in the House was close. Salomone noted that the Senate was unlikely to vote for change
         6. The Local Government Conference representing all classes of local government, Authorities and schools, has issued a White Paper on the need to change Prevailing wage, which is attached.
      3. It was decided that the Local Government Committee ( Knittel, Cigler, Candland, Salomone, Stacey) will organize a workshop on Prevailing Wage and Local tax Reform to help the Assembly:
         1. educate the community and effected groups
         2. facilitate development of positive solutions to these issues
         3. decide whether and what position to take about the issues
      4. Considerable discussion ensued as to the role of the Board in public policy development
         1. Bev CIgler stated that the Board should not be taking policy positions on issues like this, but should confine itself to internal organizational issues (development of a stable organization, healthy finances, and acquisition of a staff), and to facilitating discussion of public issues and educating the public and affected parties
         2. Klaus noted the SCA Board had pursed that facilitative role in its past, but it had also taken public policy positions related to key issues affecting South Central Pa communities, and that prevailing wage was chance to support our local governments on a matter of key importance to them, improving our position with organizations we seek to serve
         3. Snell quoted the bylaws and the Assembly's Statement of Purpose, noting that they called for discussion of key public issues and allowed for "support of legislation deemed necessary to achieve such objectives". Snell felt we had an obligation to research both sides of an issue before taking a position
         4. Salomone said Boards can and do take policy positions but need to be mindful of consequences, and need to make conscious thoughtful decisions before undertaking advocacy
         5. Klein - SCA should raise issue of importance, bring both sides together, stay neutral, provide forum for discussion
         6. Swanger - Board has always taken advocacy positions
         7. Zumbrun - Board has taken advocacy positions in past - comprehensive planning, intergovernmental cooperation, smart growth etc These positions have sometimes caused difficulty with constituent groups; staking out ground to be covered is important
         8. Davare - SCA should do one day public workshop on prevailing wage and local tax reform , cover the pros and cons, and then issue a policy position if it can agree on one
         9. Peterson - agrees with Davare, cites need for evidence based discussion
         10. Knittel - Local Government Committee will organize a workshop per Davare comment
         11. Cigler - she may not be able to serve on Board if organization takes certain policy positions
         12. Swanger and others - individual Board members have right to dissent from Board, vote no or abstain, votes are recorded. Public issues by their nature are controversial and a diverse Board cannot expect 100% agreement on all issues. Cigler is an at large member, not representing Penn State but brought on for her expertise. There is a need to assess this carefully before taking positions, but improving governance is at the core of our mission and that will necessitate taking policy positions from time to time.
   9. The meeting was adjourned. Dave Davare will present on Local tax reform at the next meeting
   10. The next meeting will be June 19, 2013 at 3:00 at PSU