

Draft SCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (G Klaus)

June 19, 2013, 3:00 P.M.

Penn State University, Church Hall, Conference Room

Attendance: Nancy Besch, Harrison Bink, Phil Briddell, Matt Candland, David Davare, Chris Gulotta,

George Klaus, Steven Peterson, Kathy Possinger, Steve Powell, Kari Reagan-Bushy, Anthony Salomone, Steve Snell, Kris Troup, and Tim Whelan, by telephone, Gail D'Angelo and Penny Myers, and staff Stephen Scanlon. Troy Truax attended as a visitor.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Snell.
2. The minutes of the May 8, 2013 Board meeting were approved with a minor correction.
3. President’s Remarks.
   1. President Snell began the meeting with a round robin of attendees talking a little about themselves in order to give the group a better sense of itself.
   2. Mr. Snell felt Board meetings should have a strong educational component to stimulate member interest, and not be only about organizational process, and Assembly administrative matters. He stressed the importance of getting Board work done at the Committee level, and the need for all Board members to participate on a committee.
4. Treasurer’s Report.
   1. The treasurer is working to develop an understanding of the Assembly’s three bank accounts, and its 2011 990 reporting status with the IRS, as well as what is needed to prepare the 2012 990. Davare noted that the financial administration of Assembly accounts as handled by volunteers lacked the structure that needs to be established.
   2. Among tasks to accomplish, accounts will need new executive committee signatories, and the Board will receive regular written financial reports noting assets, expenditures, and budget to actual .
   3. Davare acknowledged the Assembly’s historical debt to IUP.
5. Standing Committee Reports
   1. Executive Committee Report - The Executive Committee met June 14. It discussed the following items:
      1. The 2011 and 2012 990s, fundraising needs and cash on hand,
      2. the need to revisit the Assembly’s strategic plan, the establishment of a regular meeting of the Executive Committee,
      3. the debt to IUP,
      4. the importance of the three policy committees meeting at least once between board meetings,
      5. the need for leadership of the Community Revitalization Committee,
      6. the need for substantive information/education at board meetings,
      7. the importance of an annual broad-based summit,
      8. the identification of new board members to fill sector and geographic gaps on the board,
      9. the need for the treasurer to have access to the Assembly’s bank accounts,
      10. and a desire to continue the a relationship with PSU-Harrisburg.
   2. Nominating Committee
      1. Nominations Committee presented Tim Whelan, Vice President Community Impact United Way of the Capital Region, as candidate for the Board. A motion to accept Mr. Whelan as board member was made by Klaus, seconded by Besch. No discussion. The motion carried unanimously.
      2. Troy Truax, Baker Engineering was in attendance as a visitor at the suggestion of Jeff Bergston, Board member also from Baker. Discussion ensued as to the possibility of Truax replacing Bergston. Klaus will follow up by clarifying Bergsten’s status with the Board. Truax is known and respected by several Board members in his past capacity with Delta Development..
   3. Finance and Revenue Committee
      1. Davare gave recommendations to serve on the committee: Davare, D’Angelo, Gulotta, Stacey, and Zumbrun. Devare, D’Angelo, and Gulotta, being present, confirmed their intent to serve.
6. Policy Issue Committee Reports
   1. Community Revitalization – no report
   2. Housing and Community Development
      1. An April 2014 Housing Summit in York is in planning in cooperation with the York housing group. Lancaster County will offer an October housing summit for the county.
      2. The committee is developing an outreach to key influencers, and working to develop an improved mailing list.
      3. The committee is in conversation with Deb Loucks regarding expanding a pilot York/Adams bank consortium for nonprofit community development lending to the region.
      4. Six attendees at the April 6 Housing Committee program, expressed interest in working with the committee. The committee will follow up.
      5. An H&CD educational event is being planned for September 2013.
   3. Local Government Innovation and Cooperation Committee - No report
   4. Council of Colleges – No report, meeting 6-23.
7. Presentation and Discussion - see #8
8. Issue Discussion and Old Business – Local Property Tax Reform & SCA Policy Advocacy Role These themes morphed into a single discussion, Dave Davare starting with comments on Local Tax Reform. The following were points raised during the discussion:
   1. What is the best tax; is that the right question; revenue raising vs fairness.
   2. Different taxes have different effect on different interests. It is often a zero sum game – can the Assembly take a position on that?
   3. It is not the desire of the Board to place members in an awkward position with their organizations. Should the Assembly take a position on legislative issues?
   4. Advocacy and education are related, and both play important roles in policy development. A legislative bill can be seen as a beginning point. The Assembly’s advocacy and educational efforts can help to make improvements.
   5. To add educational perspective, ask if nothing changes where will we be five or more years out?
   6. The board’s inability to find agreement on one issue does not preclude it from seeking agreement on other issues.
   7. SCA as a nonpartisan group should debate regional issues and needs, and create educational forums to develop policies and solutions to resolve important regional needs and issues.
   8. Gulotta and Salomone - Follow our mission to address regional issues. Do we know what are the top five regional issues we can all agree on? Are we reacting to Commonwealth issues; are they the most relevant issues of our region? We should be proactive to meet identified regional needs rather than reactive to state legislation. Specifics such as pension and tax reform were not considered. The Assembly should not get involved in the specifics of funding; it should focus on issues and their effect on communities
   9. Gulotta - It would be a good relationship-building and needs identification exercise for the Assembly to conduct focus groups in each SCA county of 12 to 15 stakeholders to identify the top five issues in their counties and from that develop a regional report highlighting common needs and issues, and support for the Assembly's agenda. There was general agreement that this was a good approach to pursue.
      1. The Foundation for Enhancing Communities funded a study by Delta Development about the five top issues in its region (Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin) ten years ago. They were: housing, transportation, education, community development, and health. SCA should talk to Janice Black of TFEC and the several County Foundations re supporting an update of this study..
      2. We could work through associations and planning commissions and gather their insight on the issues, but associations will not be county specific and planning commissions will be land use and economic development focused
      3. A general survey of the region such a Survey Monkey might also be useful.
   10. President Snell concluded the discussion by indicating that the Executive Committee would consider these points, and work on developing the County Focus Group Planning effort. .
9. New Business
   1. A request for Scanlon to update the website to reflect recent changes.
   2. Should the Assembly enter the world of social media? Scanlon opined that it would not be wise until there was something to say and that something would need to be posted at least twice a week. Linked In would likely be the best fit. However, the SCA website is receiving a very low volume of traffic and that is where initial attention is merited.
   3. Klaus - need to develop a regular electronic newsletter tol et the region know what SCA is doing, and enlist support for our efforts. This would replace SCA's old and successful print newsletter..
10. Future Speakers – no report
11. Announcements – none
12. Adjournment – business being concluded the meeting adjourned at 4:50

Next meeting: August 21, 2013 Meeting Place - Church Hall