

South Central Regional Construction Code Council Meeting
Thursday, August 9, 2007
Time: 2:00PM

Location: Lafourche Parish Council Chambers
Barrios Center
1618 Highway 182
Raceland, La. 70394

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance were:

Michael Wich (SCPDC)
Pat Gordon (Terrebonne)
Kim Marousek (St. John)
Donald Nash (St. James)
John Boudreaux (Assumption)
Debbie Moore (Lafourche)

No members were absent.

1. Review and adopt minutes for meeting held July 12, 2007:

It was moved by Mr. Pat Gordon, seconded by Mr. Donald Nash to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

2. Permit Software Discussion:

Mr. Ryan Hutchinson informed the board there are a few bugs being worked out with SCPDC permit tracking program. In reference to permit software he found the company CRW seems to be great for Terrebonne but unfortunately it is expensive and won't work as a whole for what we are trying to do. Praeses, a company working with Rapides Parish seems to be heading in the same direction as SCPDC. Mr. Hutchison has an interest in subcontracting Praeses.

Mr. Kevin Belanger informed the board there are several thousand dollars remaining in the budget. There is also a grant fund coming up and SCPDC would like to turn in an application so that we may allocate resources for completion of this program. Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mr. Pat Gordon, seconded by Mr. Mike Wich to request a proposal for software development. Motion carried.

3. Status of Grant Application:

Mr. Kevin Belanger informed the board the grant application deadline is August 31, 2007. SCPDC is looking for this grant to cover several components. Vehicles for the inspectors, additional cost for geotechnical services, and handle some of the inspections for Terrebonne Parish prior to SCPDC existence.

SCPDC requested a 6 month extension on the first grant and feels it will be granted.

4. Permit and Financial Update:

Ms. Dawn Allemand presented the council with a financial analysis.

5. Appeals board details:

Mr. Wich presented the board with a packet recommending a 6 member panel to cover all of the trades. Mr. Wich would like to see the members of this panel spread around all of the different regions. If this is acceptable the next step would be to actually begin nominations and labeling that persons profession. Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Mr. Pat Gordon, seconded by Mr. Donald Nash to review at the next meeting. Motion carried.

6. Plan review and inspection items found most often/Code Enforcement Update:

Mr. Wich reviews a few problem issues with inspections as well as plan review. Overall things are beginning to get much better.

7. Status of Soils Mapping:

The state is working on state wide maps that will be of great help. SCPDC would like to have an individual to research soil data and furnish information to applicants so they are aware of what they are building on. Discussion ensued.

8. Presentation by Donald Nash:

Mr. Nash gave a very informative presentation in reference to planning and permitting information. Upon application his office hands out an informative booklet with everything the customer needs to know about the permitting process.

Mr. Warren Lawrence, Chief Enforcement Officer with the State Plumbing Board voiced his concerns. Mr. Lawrence wanted to make an appearance to let the board know his office is available to anyone needing information concerning State Plumbing Codes.

There was then a brief discussion on mobile home codes.

9. Discuss rules pertaining to third party providers and consistency throughout member parishes and towns. Discuss actions for non-compliance. Establish procedure for dealing with non-compliance.

Mr. Wich raises concerns SCPDC is having in reference to third party providers. Mr. Wich read from the Enforcement of Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code. This is the same code that was adopted by the regional code council. Mr. Wich feels it is very clear.

Mr. Wich states he has had some inconsistency concerning the above as well as some procedural issues. He once again wanted to point this out as he is still receiving permits of people getting a third party provider that does not meet the criteria of what he just reviewed.

Mr. Belanger informs the board of SCPDC concerns. If in fact the inconsistency is there, SCPDC is made aware of them and does nothing to correct them SCPDC can be held liable. More importantly if it is not addressed this commission could be on its own without insurance. Mr. Wich has the ability to enforce, file injunctions, and file stop work orders. SCPDC doesn't want it to get to that point so they are trying to make all the parishes aware of what has to happen. It's getting to be a habitual problem and SCPDC cannot tolerate it. SCPDC is obligate to enforce the laws and will do just that.

Mr. Barry Blackwell spoke on foundation issue. Discussion ensued.

10. Salary Ranges:

Mr. Belanger informs the board that at the beginning of this process we had an idea for the salary range for the CBO and Communication Specialists. A range was never established for these two positions. Mr. Belanger over the next month will be working on a very competitive salary range so the board can review and approve.

Mr. Belanger requested Mr. Wich to introduce the inspectors and plan reviewers as well as inform the board of their completed certifications.

11. Location and time of next meeting:

It was agreed the next meeting will be hosted by Lafourche Parish on September 13, 2007 at 10am. Location will be at the Barrios Center.

12. Other:

Mr. Doug Daigle with Southern Glass Company spoke in reference to a problem he is having, code enforcement. He is seeing buildings going up with non-compliant code materials. He questions where the reinforcement of the code is as he is losing business.

Mr. Wich realizes there is a big cost difference in material. Previously jobs being handled by third party providers SCPDC had not been checking up on. Last couple of days he has had the inspectors actively out checking all jobs including our own. Inspectors found several projects where the windows and doors are not code compliant and appropriate action is being taken. Discussion ensued.

There being no further information to be discussed, it was moved by Mr. Pat Gordon, seconded by Mr. Donald Nash to adjourn.