

South Central Regional Construction Code Council Meeting
Thursday, November 8, 2007
Time: 10:00AM

Location: St. James Parish Courthouse Annex
2631 La. 20 West
Vacherie, La. 70090

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance were:

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

No members were absent.

1. Review and adopt minutes for meeting held October 11, 2007:

It was moved by Mr. Pat Gordon, seconded by Mr. Donald Nash to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

2. Permit and Financial Update:

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

3. Introduction of Chief Building Inspector:

Mr. Wich introduced Mr. Terry Talbot as his Chief Building Inspector. Mr. Wich informed the board Mr. Talbot would take care of any day to day operations and keep Mr. Wich informed. He also advised the board he did have an open door policy and would be available anytime someone felt the need to speak with him directly. Discussion ensued.

4. FEMA Reimbursable Grant:

Mr. Wich informed the board the State Code Council did grant the amount allotted for SCPDC. Vehicles will be ordered from this grant. Discussion ensued.

5. Guest Speaker and Discussion:

Mr. Harry Shields with Entergy spoke on Entergy procedures for permits. Each parish spoke on the procedures they use in their office when calling in a request for power.

Ms. Debbie Moore of Lafourche Parish had concerns in reference to fees being collected. She feels SCPDC is benefiting not the parishes. She doesn't feel the parish should be put in the hole. The board advised her fees would be reevaluated at the end of the year. That was not the discussion on hand. The floor was turned back to Mr. Shields and discussion ensued.

6. Trade Permits on-line:

Mr. Ryan Hutchinson with SCPDC IT Department spoke on the possibility of setting up on-line services for customers and contractors in all parishes through SCPDC. Discussion ensued and it was decided this feature would not be feasible at this time.

7. Rules of Procedure Revisions:

The board reviewed corrections on the Rules of Procedure. Discussion ensued and it was decided they would review closer and discuss next month.

8. Fees (Trade Permits, Renovations, Commercial Renovations, Commercial):

Ms. Debbie Moore was allowed to speak in reference to the cost of trade permits. Ms. Moore feels very little goes to the parish and she cannot see how that amount pays for the work to be done. She feels there should be a restructure of the fees.

It was explained to Ms. Moore the fees were not set by SCPDC. These fees were set by several members from each parish. Ms. Moore was reminded Cullen Curole was in on that meeting and agreed to those fees. The board knew with setting up this program there would be give and take. They set to have the fees re-evaluated at the end of one year to see where improvements need to be made.

Mr. Wich explained to Ms. Moore the money SCPDC takes in is an open book. Every month it is shown what is taken in. Discussion ensued.

9. Rules and Procedures for Third Party Providers:

Mr. John Boudreaux spoke in reference to Third Party Providers. There was an issue in his parish where a third party provider approved a client to occupy the residence where several violations were found.

Mr. Boudreaux feels there needs to be rules for the third party providers to follow. He feels they need to apply to the board as a region. If they do not meet this requirement there should be disciplinary action taken. The board was handed a copy of the requirements as well as the disciplinary proceedings. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Pat Gordon requested this topic be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to review.

10. Location of Next Meeting (12/13/07 @ 10am):

It was agreed to hold the next meeting December 13, 2007, 10:00am in St. John the Baptist, Percy Hebert Building, St. John Council Chambers, 1801 West Airline Highway, Laplace, La. 70068.

11. Other:

Mr. Wich informed the board he met with the Insurance Chief Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Bill Newton and some insurance underwriters from out of state. They were interested in seeing what SCPDC had in place. The interest was set on if the house was built to code, inspection reports and certificates of compliance. If this does not exist the insurance companies may choose not to write a policy. If a policy is written the customer will not receive a discount. They were impressed with what the SCRCCC had presented to them. They did commit to writing insurance next year with 6 to 7 more companies interested. They are considering houses after 1970 in Parishes that had prior building codes and the area the homes are located. Discussion ensued.

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