

South Central Regional Construction Code Council Meeting
Thursday, July 12, 2007
Time: 10:00AM

Location: South Central Planning
5058 West Main Street
Houma, La. 70360

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance were:

Michael Wich (SCPDC)
Pat Gordon – Mitch McDonald, proxy (Terrebonne)
Lou Ellen Vaughn (St. John)
Donald Nash (St. James)
John Boudreaux (Assumption)
Debbie Moore, (Lafourche)

No members were absent.

1. Review and adopt minutes for May 10, 2007 and June 14, 2007 meeting:

It was moved by Mr. Donald Nash, seconded by Mr. Michael Wich to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Lou Ellen Vaughn, seconded by Ms. Debbie Moore to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

2. Update by SCPDC IT Department on scanners:

Mr. Ryan Hutchinson informed the board that Assumption, Terrebonne, St. James, Lockport, Golden Meadow all had no problems with their scanners. Lafourche had a small email problem which has been resolved. St. John is having a problem with the length of time it is taking to send out. Gramercy is waiting on Internet service to be connected.

Computers for Inspectors - It is estimated Cingular will activate the accounts by next week. At this time each inspector will be issued their explorers.

Permit Tracking Development – There are a few added changes being made. It is now being set up so that when the inspector is in the field he can log in the information and it will be sent to SCPDC directly. The goal is for anyone to be able to log on SCPDC site and find the status of an inspection.

3. Permit Software Discussion:

Mr. McDonald stated Terrebonne Parish has an interest in software from CRW. They would like to see some attempts made in reference to the GIS system. They do realize the quote was quite a large sum. Mr. Wich informed the board there is an interest with CRW and also a company, Praeses who will present SCPDC with their information. Mr. Wich also advised there is Fema money that can be applied for before August 31, 2007. Discussion ensued.

4. Permit and Financial Update:

Ms. Dawn Allemand presented the council with a financial analysis. Ms. Vaughn was concerned the mileage reimbursement was a bit high. Mr. Wich reminded her there are ten inspectors and they are using their personal vehicles. Due to training they report to the office every morning. When the training is complete the cost will go down. SCPDC is also looking into purchasing vehicles for them. Discussion ensued.

5. Permission to add a receptionist:

Mr. Wich explained this was held over from the last meeting, there is still a definite need for this position. Dealing with all the different parishes we receive a high volume of calls. Previously any missed calls would go straight to voicemail. If for any reason Ms. Stewart is out, there is no one there to handle the calls. This does not provide acceptable customer service.

It was moved by Mr. Wich to add a receptionist, seconded by Ms. Vaughn. Motion carried.

6. Possible development of an appeals board:

Mr. Wich explains he looked further into the matter to see if there would be interest from the public in serving on this board. He spoke with several people and feels the interest is definitely there. If you follow the administrative code and the recommendations of the building code an appeals board is suggested. Mr. Wich feels it would be more comfortable and palpable for the public to have such a board.

Mr. Wich explains how the board would be used. Ms. Moore asked if this would be for all private inspectors to utilize or only for SCPDC. Mr. Wich agrees such a board should be used by all inspectors. Discussion ensued.

7. Joey Yesso to address the code council:

Mr. Yesso gave a presentation on foundations. He feels the need to protect the consumer from themselves. He brought in samples of two actual projects he is working on. Mr. Yesso showed the cost of the foundation without soil boring vs. soil boring. He showed

how the soil boring slab was much more stable and the actual cost was almost \$2000.00 cheaper.

Mr. John Boudreaux entered at 10:40am during Mr. Yesso's presentation.

8. SELHBA to address code council:

SELHBA(Southeast Louisiana Home Builders Association), was represented by Rob Hamilton, and Louis Daigle. These gentlemen wanted to be clear concerning rumors they are against SCPDC. They wanted to state publicly that this is not the case. There is a decline on home building permits and they want to work with everyone. SELHBA feels that all the parishes need to work together. SELHBA wants to help aid the code enforcements between all parishes.

9. State Code Council Update:

Mr. Wich explained he just returned from the State Code Council meeting in Pineville, La. Several issues that were discussed were relevant to our own area. One in Particular that is relevant to the whole state is the issue of Third Party providers and the rules that apply to them. The State has taken steps to put into effect things that Third Party providers must have. One is Five Hundred Thousand Dollars of professional liability insurance rather than just general liability. The state also clarified the rules on what the requirements are from Third Parties in reference to plan review and inspection reports. The rules state that they shall be submitted to the local building official who is Mr. Wich.

The State is going to issue a letter to Lafourche informing them they cannot appoint more than one building official. There is an ordinance in Lafourche Parish that has appointed Mr. Wich as the registered building official of that area.

10. Update on turnaround times for inspections and plan reviews:

Mr. Wich informed the council that everyone has been excellent in submitting plans and getting SCPDC the information required. Plans with no issues are being returned within 24 hours. Inspections called in before 1pm are being done the same day. Depending on location and availability of inspectors if called in after 1pm it is still being done same day, we just don't guarantee. The public is doing an excellent job at calling in with information and time frames for inspections. Our response time has gotten faster, that at no time are they waiting for inspections.

Ms. Vaughn questioned Mr. Wich on temporary permanent power. Mr. Wich explains and a discussion ensued.

11. Location and time of next meeting (Lafourche Request, 8/9/07 @ 10am):

It was agreed the next meeting will be hosted by Lafourche Parish on August 9, 2007 at 10am. Location will be determined at a later date.

12. Other:

Mr. McCarty, as a neutral observer with the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council, wanted to inform the council he was very proud of them, and they were all leaders in the state with what they were doing. It is encouraging to see the homebuilders come here and participate in the process. If this continues he feels this council will truly be the model for the state. The council has done a tremendous job and he is not seeing anything happen like it is here anywhere else in the state. He wanted to encourage homebuilders and contractors to stay a part of this process.

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