

South Central Regional Construction Code Council Meeting
Thursday, February 14, 2008
Time: 10:00AM

Location: Terrebonne Parish Council Chambers
8026 Main Street
Second Floor
Houma, La. 70360

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance were:

Michael Wich (SCRCCC)
Pat Gordon (Terrebonne)
Lou Vaughn (St. John)
Donald Nash (St. James)
John Boudreaux (Assumption)
Deborah K. Moore (Lafourche)

No members were absent.

1. Review and adopt minutes for meeting held January 10, 2008:

It was moved by Mrs. Lou Vaughn, seconded by Mr. Donald Nash to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

2. Rules and Disciplinary Proceedings for Third Party Providers:

Mr. Donald Nash was given the floor to review the proposed procedures for inspectors that he and Mrs. Deborah Moore put together. Mr. Nash went down the list and questions and discussion ensued.

“Inspectors shall follow code interpretations adopted by the municipalities”. Mr. John Boudreaux stated he feels that is a violation due to their contract with South Central Planning. He informed Mr. Nash this is stated in the cooperative endeavor and title 55. All of the parishes designated Michael Wich as the CBO. Mr. Wich then read straight from section 104 of the international building code. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gordon explained one of the reasons Terrebonne Parish got into the Regional Code Council was to make sure all the parishes were doing the same thing. It was all about the uniformity of the code. Speaking for Terrebonne he would prefer one interpretation not multiple. Mr. Boudreaux agreed.

Mr. Nash stated he understood but only to a certain degree. He does not feel it is fair for one company telling another company how to run their business.

Mrs. Deborah Moore stated the way she looks at it is Michael Wich, a very competent CBO work for SCP. He's going to represent his company SCP and then oversee all the other people that work for themselves.

Mr. Wich made two points. First being he works for South Central Regional Code Council. The second is the Code Council board is the one that makes sure he is being fair and impartial.

Mrs. Moore said she is just trying to be fair, impartial and not step on anyone's toes. Mr. Wich will look out for his company he works for. Had he been hired just for the municipalities and not SCP then it would be different. Mr. John Boudreaux explained that is who he was working for. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wich informed the board the Home Builders Association had a meeting with him, Mr. Gordon and the third parties. It was agreed by all that arrangements would be made before going to check on a job.

Mr. Rob Hamilton of the Home Builders Association stated after the last meeting he felt it would be good to have a meeting for all involved. One issue he heard was does SCP have the authority to go on any job and inspect third parties work? The word from the state code council is they do and he understands it is in the code book. After the meeting ended they all agreed that was the case and then set up some professionalism.

Mr. Curt McCarty with the state explained the authority of the Building Official being able to inspect over the third parties. SCP is a limited agent of all your jurisdictions by contract. They are not operating under the offices of their own company but instead they are representing you and your interest only. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Lou Vaughn asked Mr. Wich how is SCP auditing the inspections to be sure the permit is complete. Mr. Wich explains that if the customer does not call for final inspection the COC would not be issued. Mr. Boudreaux explained that is an issue internal to the permit office. That is not procedures implemented with the code. Mrs. Vaughn stated St. John is not set up with a check and balance for each permit and she feels SCP should be responsible for doing this. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Arlanda Williams spoke stating she feels there is no consistency. She feels all parishes that signed a contract need to look over what needs to be done. She requests to review the documents, take into consideration the problems that you have and then make a working document.

Mr. Pat Gordon made a motion to collect a committee of representation for all and finalize the document to be presented, Mr. Donald Nash seconded. Motion Carried.

Mrs. Deborah Moore made a motion to nominate Mr. Donald Nash to help write the rules and procedures, Mrs. Lou Vaughn seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Election of Officers in April:

Mr. Boudreaux wanted to announce there will be election at the next meeting. He also reminded the council he would not be running for chairman.

4. IT Update:

Mr. Ryan Hutchinson with SCP informed the board mypermitnow.org was up and running with everyone using it. There were a few minor scanning issues that he is ironing out. Currently we are sending reviewed plans back to Terrebonne digitally. The next major task will be to do digital inspection reports. There has been a lot of progress on automated phone calls and automated alert. There is still a lot of work to be done on the customer portal section. All in all we are very close to having all the major parts of the program working.

Mr. Pat Gordon asked if there was work being done in reference to the software where it would generator a notice to the utilities companies for power. Ryan did inform him he is working with Entergy to merge the data bases.

5. Soils Mapping Update:

Mr. Wich informed the board of options that were being explored. There have been some conversations with people who have knowledge in the field. Mr. Wich contacted LSU and it seems they have an interest in getting involved with the project. Mr. Wich will get a proposal together and present to the board before any work is contracted out.

6. Southeast HBA to address the Council concerning representation:

Mr. Rob Hamilton spoke to the board in reference to having representation on the Code Council. Mr. Hamilton feels they would help with a lot of issues at hand. Recently they called a meeting with the third parties and SCP. The meeting was very successful for all parties.

Mr. Pat Gordon stated he feels that is a good idea but not as a voting member. Mr. Donald Nash feels there is a problem due to the fact an appeals issue could arise. Mr. Wich feels since he would not be a voting member that would not be an issue. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Pat Gordon made a motion to have an attorney to review that this would not be a conflict of interest, Mrs. Lou Vaughn seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Dillard spoke and commended the committee for having an open mind to hearing concerns of third parties and the home builders association.

7. Location of next meeting (3/13/2008 @ 10am):

It was agreed to hold the next meeting March 13, 2008, 10:00am at the Assumption Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, 4813 Highway 1, Napoleonville, La. 70390.

8. Other:

Mrs. Lou Vaughn informed Mr. Wich her permit clerk stated she is receiving duplicate inspection reports and some of them have the wrong numbers. Mrs. Vaughn's concern is that it creates more work for her office. Mr. Wich informed her he would look into the situation.

Mr. Donald Nash informed the board he has a letter concerning ethics violations in reference to the previous conversation. Mr. Nash read from this letter and stated it sounds like the homebuilders request would be in violation. Mr. Boudreaux explained that is why it is important to get an attorney to review.

Mrs. Deborah Moore asked for the financial report. Mr. Wich advised he sent an email out explaining. There was a sudden death at our office and Ms. Allemand has been trying to keep up with all of the work.

Mr. John Boudreaux wanted to comment, next month would be the year end anniversary where they will begin reviewing fees.

Mr. Wich informed the board there is a large complex going up in Terrebonne Parish. He received an email from the Engineer in charge of the job and wanted to share with the board. He advised even though there are issues being sorted out here there is a lot of positive coming out of it.

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