

SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2008

South Central Planning & Development Commission
Houma, Louisiana

The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer. Those in attendance were:

Earl Geason, St. James Sheriff's Office
Craig Poche, St. James Sheriff's Office
Steve Tullis, NSU Police
Robert Canfield, LHSC
Darrin Naquin, LA State Police Troop C
Philip Poche, LA State Police Troop C
Greg Hood, Houma Police Department and ADAC
Antoine Rodrigue, Lafourche Sheriff's Office
Marc Ducote, LHSC
Fred Teruin, LHSC
Lanard Robinet, St. John Sheriff's Office
Marilyn Harris, HDD-OAD Region 3
Laura Guise, Thibodaux PD
Karla Sibille, DOTD
Betsey Tramonte, LA Operation Life Saver
Hadi Shirazi, LA DOTD
Julie Acosta, Assumption Sheriff's Office
Rich Rozands, Chabert Medical Center
Keith J. Faul, Terrebonne Sheriff's Office
Sue Szush, Acadian Ambulance
Greg Maurin, St. John Sheriff's Office

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Greg Hood
Prayer: Led by Greg Maurin

It was moved by Antoine Rodrigue, seconded by Greg Hood to approve the minutes of November 15, 2007. Motion carried.

The election of officers and review of appointments to the Executive Board were discussed. It was moved by Craig Poche, seconded by Antoine Rodrigue to keep the current officers, Greg Maurin - Chairman and Val Penouilh - Vice Chairman. The motion also included the following changes to the Executive Board:

At Large Members:

Philip Poche to replace Darrin Naquin, LA State Police Troop C

Assumption Parish:

Julie Acosta to replace Leonard Alcorn, Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office
Remove John Boudreaux

Lafourche Parish:

Remove Doug Foreman with Lafourche Sheriff's Office
Add Laura Guise, Thibodaux PD and Steve Tullis, NSU

Terrebonne Parish:

Add Keith Faul, Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office

St. John the Baptist Parish:

Cathy Holmes retired. Need to find a replacement

Motion carried.

The upcoming meeting schedule was discussed. The dates are as follows: March 20, 2008 and May 15, 2008.

Darrin Naquin informed the Task Force that the Zero for December campaign was a success although there were three (3) fatalities for the month.

Melissa Menuet informed the Task Force that Angie Womack Jones had suggested a great commodity idea. The Lincoln Parish Safe Community Program gives glow in the dark mugs at sobriety checkpoints to those who have not been drinking. Non drinkers can bring their mug to a participating convenience store for a free coke. The group thought the idea was good and felt that we should get more information.

Melissa Menuet notified the group that Angie Womack Jones will no longer be the program coordinator at LHSC for the South Central Safe Community Program. Ms. Lyrica Johnson will be here replacement.

Discussion ensued on the Lifesavers Conference in Portland, Oregon April 12th - 15th. Melissa Menuet asked for clarification on the amount to be allocated to send representatives to the conference. She also asked who was interested in attending from the Task Force. Philip Poche and Antoine Rodrigue will attend the conference on behalf of the South Central Safe Community Task Force. Greg Hood will be the alternate.

It was moved by Fred Teruin, seconded by Craig Poche' to allocate \$2,280.00 to send Philip Poche and Antoine Rodrigue to the Lifesavers Conference in April 2008. Motion carried.

Melissa Menuet pointed out a copy in the handout which showed the amounts approved for the subgrants. She stated that the contracts have gone out and everyone should have received theirs.

Melissa Menuet requested any ideas that the Task Force may be interested in applying for through the DOTD Safe Routes to School Program. Discussion ensued.

Melissa Menuet stated that at the November 15th meeting she was requested to put together a letter to the legislative delegation to introduce the Task Force. She said that as requested she put together a letter which is included in the handout for

review. The committee agreed with the letter and Ms. Menuet was instructed to proceed with sending out the letter.

The next item on the agenda was Parish Reports. Craig Poché of St. James Parish stated that in the month of December there were no fatalities in their parish. Antoine Rodrigue of Lafourche Parish stated that there was one fatality in the month of December. Lanard Robinet of St. John Parish reported that there were several DWI checkpoints in the Parish. He said that units were stationed 24 hours a day at major shopping centers within the Parish during the holidays to ensure the safety of the shoppers. Greg Hood reported on a bank robbery which took place in the City of Houma. Philip Poche of Troop C reported that the troop has 6 cadets in training and their manpower will soon increase. He also stated that a helicopter would be available to help patrol the Mardi Gras parades. Keith Faul stated that they partnered with Lafourche Parish on DWI checkpoints and also conducted parking lot patrols during the month of December.

A reminder of the Highway Rail Summit and the Highway Safety Summit was given by Karla Sibille.

Betsey Tramonte of Louisiana Operation Lifesavers discussed new statistics that are available for the year 2007. She stated that fatalities were way up for the year. She spoke of a public service announcement campaign that kicked off in the spring semester. She said that 4 year colleges and universities across the state were targeted for the contest where students create a 30 second PSA for television to compete for scholarship money. The deadline for entry is April 11th.

Melissa Menuet notified the Task Force that SCPDC has began working with Ms. Rochelle St. Marie to conduct a Train the Trainer program, Drinking and Driving: It Costs too much. SCPDC and Ms. St. Marie will target the month of may to conduct the workshop.

Melissa Menuet stated to the Task Force that the Traffic Summit will be held on July 17th and asked that everyone start thinking about guest speakers for the event. The group would like to hold the event once again at the NSU Century Room.

Melissa Menuet also reminded the group that an ATV Subcommittee meeting will follow the Task Force meeting and invited any interested individual to stay.

Greg Maurin spoke of a newspaper article regarding a bill package by the Louisiana Property and Casualty Insurance Commission. He said that they are trying to prohibit drivers under 18 from driving while using a cell phone, handheld devices, text messaging devices and any other wireless communication device. He asked for comments regarding this. The committee felt that this should include everyone. Bob Canfield said that it is up to each of us to contact our legislators to push the issue. We will discuss this at the March meeting to send a letter to our legislators to support the bill. Mr. Canfield said that Col. Champagne will probably be focusing on the issue of under 21 in the bars.

Mr. Maurin stated that another initiative of the Insurance Commission is to expand the state's seat belt law to require that all vehicle occupants be buckled up.

Discussion ensued on red light running cameras.

Karen Sibille informed the Task Force of the Motorcycle Safety Awareness Committee meeting which will be held in Baton Rouge on February 19th in Classroom A at the Highway Safety Commission.

It was suggested that we try to arrange to have Col. Champagne to attend the March meeting to discuss his legislative agenda.

There being no other business to discuss, it was moved by Fred Teruin, seconded by Antoine Rodrigue to adjourn.