

SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2008

Louisiana State Police Troop C
Gray, 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
Philip Poche, LA State Police Troop C
Antoine Rodrigue, Lafourche Sheriff's Office
Lanard Robinet, St. John Sheriff's Office
Karla Sibille, DOTD/LA Operation Life Savers
Betsey Tramonte, FHWA
Hadi Shirazi, LA DOTD
Julie Acosta, Assumption Sheriff's Office
Greg Maurin, St. John Sheriff's Office
Chris Authement, Terrebonne Parish School Board
Alicia P. Touns, ADAC
Melanie Sharp, Performance Suzuki of Houma
Lt. Sam Pruitt, Thibodaux Police Department
Karla Couvillion, Children's Coalition
Aimee Gautreaux, Children's Coalition
Kristie Collins, Lady of the Sea Hospital
Gilbert Dardar, Jr., Louisiana State Police Troop C
Bealon Yelverton, Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office
Lyle LeBlanc, Louisiana DOTD

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Greg Maurin
Prayer: Led by Chris Authement

It was moved by Lanard Robinet, seconded by Craig Poche to approve the minutes of January 24, 2008. Motion carried.

The upcoming meeting schedule was discussed. The dates are as follows: May 15, 2008 and September 18, 2008 at Troop C. The Traffic Summit will take place on July 17, 2008.

Melissa Menuet discussed information she received from Addie Smith of the North Central Alliance Partners in Prevention on an approach they use to encourage designated drivers. Ms. Menuet provided art work for stadium mugs that Ms. Smith allowed use of if the South Central Safe Community Task Force would like to work towards a similar type of program. Ms. Menuet stated that local bars and restaurants in the North Central Alliance Partners in Prevention area allow those individuals who enter into the restaurant or bar with the mug to have unlimited soft drink refills. The mugs would be given to individuals at sobriety checkpoints who were not drinking

alcoholic beverages. The committee liked the idea and directed Ms. Menuet to get quotes on mugs and contact bars and restaurants to see if we could get participation. Ms. Menuet asked if anyone had any specific bars or restaurants in their parishes who they felt would be interested in participating. Sphars in Des Allemands, Houma and Thibodaux was suggested as a good restaurant to contact.

Melissa Menuet stated that there is a request by Troop C to purchase a panda mascot costume. Gilbert Dardar discussed the Buckles the Bear mascot. He said that he borrowed a costume for Mardi Gras and the kids loved it. He stated that the costume cost \$600.00 which includes the head and arms. Melissa Menuet asked if the Task Force would be willing to purchase the costume with commodity funds. Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Chris Authement, seconded by Craig Poche to allow \$600.00 of the funds allocated for commodities to be spent to purchase the panda costume for Troop C. Motion carried.

Under Parish Reports, Antoine Rodrigue reported that Lafourche Parish will conduct a DWI checkpoint on April 18th. He also stated that a mock crash was conducted in the Parish. Steve Tullis reported that NSU conducted the Fatal Vision program with the golf cart in the past week. Gilbert Dardar reported on the Mock Crash demonstration which was held in Terrebonne Parish. He also showed the Task Force the photo which was taken by Picture Parlor of all law enforcement agencies. Greg Maurin spoke on the progress of St. John's subgrant. He said that the Traffic Division conducted stops to check for child safety seat compliance and the success in getting the car seats to those in need.

Hadi Shirazi reported that Terrebonne Parish upgraded to the new LED traffic signals. Lyle LeBlanc of DOTD stated that Lafourche Parish is completely upgraded but Terrebonne Parish has approximately another 20 signals to be updated. Mr. LeBlanc stated that this needs to be completed in order to proceed with ITS. He said eventually intersections will be monitored and the timing will be able to be changed from a remote location.

Greg Maurin asked if anyone in the region had traffic enforcement cameras. Lyle LeBlanc stated that the traffic enforcement cameras are not done on state routes.

Discussion ensued on brick mailboxes on state right of ways.

Gilbert Dardar stated that on Saturday, April 5th Troop C will conduct its 4th Annual Open House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. He said that the open house is open to the public.

Melissa Menuet stated that she has booked the Century Room at NSU for the upcoming Traffic Summit. She informed the Task Force that the Century Room was the only room available at NSU due to the Ballroom being under construction. The Century Room will only hold 75 comfortably. Ms. Menuet also informed the Task Force that she has also booked the Terrebonne Parish Main Library which can hold up to 99 people comfortably. She asked if anyone had any objections to the Traffic Summit being held at the Terrebonne Parish Library. The members agreed that the Terrebonne Parish Library will be a good location.

Melissa Menuet discussed guest speakers for the upcoming Traffic Summit.

Betsey Tramonte informed the Task Force that she is now employed as the Safety Specialist for FHWA. She reported on the FHWA rural safety initiative which is money available for safety improvements for rural roads. The money is targeted towards the delta parishes and \$15 million is available nationally. She informed the Task Force that a workshop will be held on March 25th at the Louisiana Transportation Research Center on the LSU campus. She said if anyone is interested in attending to contact Spencer at 225-767-9717.

Karla Sibille reported that she has taken Betsey Tramonte's place at Operation Lifesavers but is also still conducting her current duties with DOTD. Ms. Sibille suggested that Ms. Menuet contact Redflex Traffic Systems to be a presenter at the Traffic Summit. She stated that work zone awareness week is April 7th through 11th and DOTD will be participating. A cone memorial will be set up in front of DEQ headquarters.

The final item on the agenda was the ATV Subcommittee Report. Alicia Toups presented the PowerPoint/video presentation which will be conducted in the schools.

Discussion ensued on the number of ATV accidents that were on public access roads. Ms. Toups requested assistance in getting local numbers to include in the presentation. Ms. Tramonte asked if the students would be told in the presentation that it is also illegal to ride ATVs on railroad tracks. Ms. Toups stated that it would be. There was discussion regarding ATV fatalities on private property as well.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.