

ST. JAMES STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2010
ROMEVILLE RECREATION CENTER

Members Present:

Terry Borne
Tommy Bourgeois
Kevin Criddle
Kathleen Favorite
Blaise Gravois
Ozane Gravois
Zeb Mayhew, Jr.
D'ara Pillette
Nick Steib
Clara Mae Harris
Chad Weidert
Lois Moore

Member Absent:

Elyse Garon
D'ara Pillette
Chad Weidert
Michelle Octave
Libby Hotard
Michael Guillot
Diane Brathwaite
Debra Bartley

The Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

It was moved by O. Gravois, seconded by N. Steib to approve the minutes with the corrections noting that Ms. Pillette and Mr. Zeringue were both absent. The motion carried.

The Chair brought forth a discussion on the appointment to replace Mr. Zeringue who resigned and he noted that the Council was possibly considering appointing a representative of the school board.

At this time Ms. Favorite and Ms. Harris entered the meeting.

The discussion on the appointment continued and there was debate on whether the Steering Committee should make a recommendation on the appointment or express their concerns regarding the matter. It was pointed out that the schools were represented by four persons who are already on the committee and that many people who wanted to be on the committee had previously submitted their names and not selected. Mr. Mayhew noted that Zeringue was appointed to represent financial interests and perhaps the replacement should have a similar background. There was discussion about having the Chair and Vice-Chair appear at the Council meeting to voice the concerns of the committee.

N. Steib moved to have the Chair speak on behalf of the committee at the Council meeting. There was no second and discussion continued. Ms. Favorite noted that Councilmen often attend the committee meetings, that we could send copies of minutes to them and that the committee should limit itself from the political arena. Ms. Moore said that we need more people aware of the committee and that the Chair and Vice-Chair should be the spokespersons for the steering committee. Mr. Borne said the committee works for the president and council and if they ask them to appear

at a Council Meeting they should. Ms. Favorite asked if the proposed appointee had a financial background. The Chair recognized both Mr. Hymel and Mr. Patin who said they did not know who the appointee would be. Ms. Favorite also noted that there would be other committees that people can participate on. Mr. Criddle agreed with the comments that the committee shouldn't be selecting the appointments as it is a council decision.

It was moved by N. Steib seconded by T. Borne that the Chair and Vice-Chair be the official representatives of the steering committee and that they make a report of their concerns to the Council. The motion carried.

There followed a discussion on the public kick-off meeting. Time was spent on ideas of how to get the word out to more people. There were about 20 people present in addition to committee members and elected officials at the first kick-off meeting. Discussion also ensued on the focus groups and how these will work. There will be no cut off date for participation on the focus groups but people will be encouraged to sign up as a way to generate contact information. There followed a discussion on flyers, public notices and newspaper articles. Mr. Mayhew suggested emailing the flyer to members and they could pass it on to their email contacts. Ms. Moore suggested committee members bring the flyers to their church groups.

There followed a discussion on locations and dates for focus group meetings. It was decided to hold focus group meetings at 6:00 p.m. as follows:

- July 12 prior to a short committee meeting at the set location
- July 26
- August 9th prior to a short committee meeting at the set location
- August 23rd.

Meeting locations will be rotated and SCPDC will work on locations for July 26 and August 23.

It was suggested that a new handout be prepared for the next kick off meeting that gave the dates, times and location of each focus group meeting.

Ms. Caesar of SCPDC gave a brief explanation of how the process would work.

Mr. Mayhew asked SCPDC to date the meeting calendar so the committee can be sure it has the most current edition.

Under comments from the public Mr. George Massar of the school board introduced himself and said he enjoyed being present at the meeting. He did not know much about a school board appointment.

The next Kick Off Meeting is June 24th.

The Chair noted there wasn't a quorum when the meeting began and asked the committee to take another vote on the minutes.

It was moved by O. Gravois, seconded by N. Steib to approve the minutes with the corrections noting that Ms. Pillette and Mr. Zeringue were both absent. The motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.