

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Council Meeting

DATE: Friday, November 8, 2002

TIME BEGAN: 8:07am **TIME ENDED:** 10am **FACILITATED BY:** Gil Schohan **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Mary Alice Warner, Sue Smith, John Irwin, Mark Condodemetrak, Jim Carroll, Peter Michaud, Leo Sanfacan, Andre Paquette, Dick Wallace, Kevin Washburn, Alida Millham, Linda Brewer **EXCUSED:** Rob Rovella, Sheila Weeks, Evelyn Auger **GUEST:** Judge Willard Martin **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Approval of Minutes** Motion to approve meeting summary as written was made by Andre Paquette; second provided by Sue Smith. Motion carried.

2. **Status of Council Officer Nominations** Alan noted that through a process of nominations from other Council members, the list now includes two candidates for Chair and four for Vice Chair. The timeline and planning developed by Executive Committee state that officers would be elected at the Annual Meeting. However, Council members voted to change this timeline to electing officers at the December Council Meeting. All candidates will share “their vision for 2003” prior to the voting by paper ballot. The winning candidates will then become “the slate” that is presented for formal acceptance at the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2003. There will be no provisions for proxy voting. All who wish to vote need to attend the December Council meeting.

3. **Committee Action Items**
 - **Legislative and Advocacy Committee** Mary Alice Warner, Chair, said that the Committee is now reviewing a number of LSR’s in Concord (*Legislative Service Requests*) to identify those ideas for legislation that are relevant to the work of the Council. A list of the new County Delegation, as elected on Tuesday, was distributed to all Council members. The work of the Legislative Committee can begin in earnest now that the new Delegation has been identified. The need for personal contact with each Delegation member by Council members was again stressed as critically important. This process needs to be formalized by the Legislative and Advocacy Committee
ACTION NEEDED:
 - **Council staff will gather email addresses for all Delegation members and circulate this information to Council members.**

 - **Budget Committee** Alan reviewed the proposed Council 2003 budget with the Commissioners. He addressed their concerns around the “unspent line items” by explaining that there are still large expenses anticipated with the Community Forums and the development and printing of a countywide plan. A new “in and out” line item of \$100,000 was added to cover any grant income that might come to the Council. Judy is working on several grants at this time that would fit into this category.

As there is confusion around “money spent by the County” this year on the Council and its projects, a clear, one-page “fact sheet” on how the Council and the Restorative Justice Program have been funded should be developed and distributed.
ACTION NEEDED:
 - **Alan and Judy will develop a one-page visual on the source of Council revenues for 2002.**

 - **Public Relations and Awareness Committee** Linda Brewer, Chair, summarized her committee’s progress. They are responsible for planning the Annual Meeting and are asking that each Council member participate in personally contacting Delegation members, inviting them to attend. She said that the Committee recommends that their Action Plan Goal and Objective on community partnerships expand to include other networks in addition to educational. Peter Michaud, Chair of the Planning

Committee (where the Action Plan originated), said that this objective was written to include the work already underway with the Community Technical College. He suggested that another objective be written to include other networks.

The PR Committee as to the process for identifying potential recipients of the Schmitt Award, given at the Annual Meeting to “unsung heroes” working in the juvenile justice field. Andre suggests that an ad-hoc committee that includes Bud Martin be formed to develop a process, including award criteria. Gil volunteered to participate and to chair this committee.

ACTION NEEDED:

- **Linda Brewer will write an additional objective on community partnerships to include other networks such as the faith and business communities. She will circulate this new objective to other PR Committee members and give final wording for the PR committee’s portion of the Action Plan to Alan by 4pm on Friday, November 15th.**
- **Gil will appoint an ad hoc committee to develop a process for identifying candidates for the Schmitt Award. Alan Robichaud will attend the group meeting**
- ***Planning Committee*** Peter Michaud, Chair, said his committee is finishing the Council Action Plan for 2003, with the final revisions expected at their next meeting on Monday, Nov 18th. This Action Plan, along with accomplishments during 2002, will become a part of the Annual Report that will be distributed at the Annual Meeting in January. In the early months of 2003, each Committee will flesh out this Action Plan with specific strategies to accomplish the goals and objectives assigned to their committee.
- ***Community Forums*** The first Forum held in Belmont on November 7th “went very well”, according to Mark Conodemetrak, Belmont Forum Chair, and Alan. With only 4 weeks to prepare for this Forum, over 50 people attended.

More than a ½ dozen Council members attended this first Forum in Belmont leading to a lively discussion on the format and outcomes. Comments included:

- The small group facilitators would like a ½ hour preparation period before the Forum
- It is difficult, possibly impossible, to get across the new concept of Community Justice while also trying to elicit comments from attendees. As a result the education piece on Community Justice may be shortchanged.
- Dividing the groups into the three legs of the “Community Justice” stool inhibits the free flow of ideas. It would be more productive to avoid defined filters for these small group discussion periods.
- The Survey may be too difficult for middle school youth to complete
- The major need as defined by each of the three sub-groups was “A Community Center”; yet Alan doesn’t think this response truly reflects what people were trying to say. The community’s need for a neutral intergenerational gathering place does not necessarily imply “bricks and mortar “projects. Small group facilitators need to be able to lead discussion beyond this assumption to the idea that this “Center” could be anywhere from someone’s barn to someone’s kitchen table. They also need to guide discussion by noting that “fairy godmothers from far-off places” are not needed to accomplish community goals. Instead people should assume that all the resources that are needed are already present.
- Parenting skills seemed to be a major issue that emerged. Perhaps a major contribution that the Council could make is to help promote the numerous resources that are available for families and children.
- Another theme is the lack of communication; people are not interacting with one another.
- De-briefing sessions for facilitators should occur after each Forum while specifics are still fresh.

- Lew Feldstein should tailor his presentation at the Annual Meeting on building Social Capital in a manner that fills this “void of communication” that people have identified.
- Jim Carroll said he feels that the great dividing issue in communities is the economic and social inequality that exists. There is a great divide between the “haves” and the “have nots”. Neither knows how to meaningfully engage with the other.
- The Belmont participants did not seem to mind the number of “outside” people who attended; in fact, they seemed to enjoy their presence.
- These individual Forums should ferret out the “culture” in each community i.e. What are the prevailing issues and topics that keep people engaged.
- The information gathered from these Forums and surveys should reflect positive community assets rather than community deficits.
- Schools become the surrogate parents and are expected to attend to numerous issues beyond academics.
- The Council can lead a process of “sharing” of ideas and resources from one community to another i.e. How did Meredith resolve their need for a Skate board Park? Perhaps Belmont could benefit by discussing this topic together with Meredith.
- We should know how attendees heard about these Forums – was it information in the paper, on the radio, mailing, word of mouth? Knowing this in each community is part of understanding the “culture” of each community.
- Once all Forums are completed, the Council should be able to determine how and where each community differs and how each is alike. The final report should reflect this information and conclusions.
- The next Forums are Thursday, November 14th in Tilton and Monday, November 18th in Meredith, Tuesday, November 19 in Alton, Thursday, Nov 21st in Laconia, and Monday Nov 25th in Gilford.

4. **Council Organizational Plan Update** This topic was covered in Committee Reports.

5. **Other Business** Andre shared that he has heard positive comments on the County’s new Juvenile Restorative Justice Program. Judge Martin agrees that from his perspective at the Bench, this program is definitely meeting community needs. Brian Loanes and John Egan are “user friendly”, are always present during Court sessions, and interact well with parents, kids and other professionals.

Alan reports that the ongoing course, “Evolving Community Justice” is doing very well with excellent speakers and good response from the students. He would like to see this type of collaborative activity between the Community Technical College system and individual communities continue and be replicated throughout NH.

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Friday, December 13th – 8-10am

WHERE: Winnisquam Regional Middle School Library, hosted by Kevin Washburn

Council meetings during the winter season will be held in Laconia.