

MINUTES OF THE JOINT TASK FORCE MEETING
May 18, 2009

Attendees:

Steven Crane – Civic Center General Manager
Neal Pratt – Civic Center Trustee
John Manario – Civic Center Trustee
Brian Petrovek – Portland Pirates
Richard Feeney – County Commissioner
Dan Skolnik- Portland City Councilor
James Cohen – Representative for City of Portland
William Whitten – Cumberland County
Peter Crichton, Cumberland County

Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 0730. Pratt opened discussions on the Stafford Report, ~~and~~ the funding for the report same, and the question of the authority of the Task Force ~~Authority~~. Discussion was also held as to what was discussed at the prior task force meeting, including whether the minutes accurately reflected the discussion of the prior meeting with regard to funding the Stafford Report and a resolution related to a proposed “marketing and modernization” fundraising effort of the Trustees. ~~Those minutes are pending chair approval. It was eventually agreed to let the past issue go, and determine where we go from here.~~

~~e-~~Trustee Chair Manario expressed a concern about the relationship between the Task Force and the Trustees, and he then read a prepared statement (attached). Mr. Cohen reiterated his concern as to the purpose of the task force clarified that there was no intent for the Task Force to take over any legal responsibility of the Trustees; rather, the goal was for all of the parties to the Task Force to work together around a common goal.

The original Task Force agreement was reviewed for language, and it was pointed out that the Task Force expires once Phase I of the Janet Marie Smith planning effort concludes. It was not clear whether the Stafford Report would be considered an extension of Phase I and/or whether the Task Force agreement needed to be extended by agreement of the parties.

~~Cohen said we all need to work together, task force, trustees and all around the table.~~

Petrovek expressed his concern as to the confusion created by the fund raising for the marketing and modernization effort. In particular, he was concerned that the business community would wonder whether the effort was solely through the Trustees, or whether it was a product of the Task Force. Mr. Manario indicated that the fundraising effort was a product of the Trustees. He also noted that the focus of the fundraising was marketing and modernization, but to the extent there were extra funds, the resolution supporting the fundraising effort would allow the funds to be used for the renovation effort – including the Stafford Report. being used to market and modernize the civic center as being separate from the goal of the task force, in the eyes of the business community.

It was eventually agreed ~~to clearly define the purpose and costs of the~~ that, in order to proceed with the Stafford report, a clear sense of the scope and costs needed to be determined. ~~by~~ Pratt and Petrovek, working with Cohen, were directed; to circulate a clear proposal SOON to members and a clear direction as to what to do and how to get there from this point.

Meeting adjourned at 0915.

Bill Whitten