

PRO STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED 6/8/09

Meeting Date/time: April 7, 2009 at 7:30 PM **Place:** Home of Patricia Fullagar **Next Meeting:** May 4, 2009

Facilitator: Cliff Leath

Note taker: Alex Castro

Attendees: Cliff Leath, Laura Streitfeld, Patricia Fullagar, Erin Haygood, Tom Schopler, and Alex Castro

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Eubanks Road location for the Waste Transfer Station and the Rogers Road Community: Laura S. briefed the committee on the meeting she had with Nelo Jones of the Rogers Road community group. Nelo said that when the Orange County Board of Commissioners initially proposed to locate the county dump on Eubanks Road they promised the local Rogers Road area residents that they would extend county water and sewage lines to the community. Their promise went unfulfilled, and the residents now have contaminated water wells and no sewers. The Rogers Road residents are adamantly opposed to the location of the proposed waste transfer station (WTS) on Eubanks Road and feel that economic justice should prevail and the WTS should be located elsewhere.

2. Waste Transfer Station: The committee discussed the issue of the site of the proposed WTS and the forthcoming April 21st BOCC meeting. The Howell property off of Highway 54 is an inappropriate location. It is not in an industrial/commercial area, and not near to an interstate highway or rail line. The members agreed that the BOCC should investigate the feasibility of using an existing WTS. Laura S. pointed out that the firm of consultants that studied the WTS issue had a vested interest in having a WTS built as it would mean further work for them and therefore they were not impartial in their recommendations to the BOCC. The members agreed that three points should be made at the forthcoming BOCC meeting: further work needed to be done on the location of the proposed WTS, the environmental impact it would have, and a cost benefit analysis of a WTS and alternatives like use of existing WTS or other county dumps. Tom S. said he would attend the BOCC and present these points for consideration by the commissioners. Orange County Voice (OCV) has done a considerable amount of research on the WTS issue and has a community meeting scheduled on April 15th at the White Cross Community Center. It was felt that PRO should indicate support of what OCV proposed and Laura S. volunteered to speak for PRO at the OCV meeting.

3. By-laws: Erin H. said that she had spent many hours researching community association by-law parameters and issues. By-laws are a necessary element for filing a request to the IRS for non-profit 501c3 organization status. She said that moving PRO forward to a 501c3 organization would entail quite a bit of work that is beyond the existing PRO resources. There is more organizational infra-structure that has to be put in place, including: election of officers, board members and steering committee members; formal recording and approval of minutes for meetings; reports to the PRO members, collection of dues and raising funds. A more formal organization would require more personnel and monetary resources than what exist in PRO currently. What will be the purpose of PRO? Is it to be simply a clearing house for disseminating information on issues of interest to the community, or more than this? The further development of by-laws was tabled pending the determination what PRO should be.

4. Community Survey results: Patricia F. distributed copies of the survey which indicated a favorable community impression of PRO and what had been accomplished on the UNC airport issue. **Attachment A** is a copy of the survey results.

5. Treasurer's Report: Patricia F. presented the report. While it shows a outstanding balance of \$209.22 she said there several bills unpaid and additional funds were needed. Steering Committee members donated \$158.00 on the spot. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is provided as **Attachment B**.

6. UNC airport public records request: Laura S. briefed the members on the reply received from UNC to the letter she had sent in January. **Attachment C** is a copy of the reply.

7. Grant funding: Laura S. informed the members that she had experience in the drafting of grant funding requests and would volunteer to draft a PRO request. It was agreed that the institutionalization of PRO needed to be accomplished before a formal grant request was made.

8. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and approved and the meeting concluded at 10:00 PM.

Attachments: A: PRO Survey Results; B: PRO Treasurer's Report 4/6/09; C: UNC airport public records response