

**Executive Committee Meeting  
February 16, 2011 Minutes  
12:00 p.m. at GPCOG**

**Members Present:** Gordy Billington, President, Standish; Tom Blake, South Portland; Roger Bondeson, PROP; Dick Brobst, North Yarmouth; Peter Crichton, Cumberland County; Pat Finnigan, Portland; Philip Gagnon, Gorham Alternate; Colleen Hilton, Westbrook; John Pressey, Gorham; Michael Reynolds, Raymond; Matthew Sturgis, Gray; Dick Wood, RC&D; Barbara York, Casco

**Members Absent:** Bridgton, Cape Elizabeth, Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Frye Island, Harrison, Long Island, Naples, New Gloucester, Pownal, Scarborough, Sebago, Windham, Yarmouth, Portland Trails

**Staff and Guests:** Neal Allen, GPCOG; Maddy Adams, GPCOG; Eben Marsh, GPCOG  
John Menario, Civic Center Board

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Gordy opened the meeting at 12:08. Introductions were made with everyone providing a little information about their community/agency.
2. **Minutes from November 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 meeting.** *Dick Brobst moved approval of the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 minutes, and Dick Wood seconded the motion. All were in favor.*
3. **Program: Renovating and expanding the Cumberland County Civic Center.** Neal introduced John Menario. The Steering Committee met with John last April regarding plans for the Civic Center. As a result of that discussion, GPCOG became a friend of the Civic Center (not financially).

John Menario joined the Civic Center Board about four years ago. The Civic Center has a staff of 12. Every few years a study is done on the building, and deficiencies are noted. The quality of life that the building brings is amazing. About 20,000 people attended the recent Disney on Ice event (5,000 more than last year). The Libra Foundation offered \$20 million to build a new facility in the 90's but, after a year or so, they withdrew their offer. Joe Boulos also hired an architect and came up with a game plan for a new facility. All that was needed to get that development to go through was a 1% meal and lodging tax, but it was not supported.

In 2009, John began a process where he put together a booklet with all of the proposed renovations considered over the years. He distributed a Vision 2012 sheet. Consultants determined that \$27-29 million would add 25-30 years to the Civic Center. An RFQ was put out two weeks ago. On March 16<sup>th</sup> they will select an architect and engineering firm. They are looking for design concepts that are real. They will also have a construction management company on their team that will need to come up with a cost estimate. In 2009, they made a decision to go for funding in 2011. They went with that date because soon the County Jail will be paid for and the County may be able to take this on at that time.

The Civic Center Board thought about approaching businesses for marketing assistance. They were reluctant but let John M. give it a try. He went out and asked for \$3,000 from each business. Thirty companies came on board with the \$3,000 contribution, and in three months he raised \$260,000. A full-page color ad was put in the Portland Press Herald (which normally costs \$6,000) but was put in for free with the help of the newspaper and another person. John met with the newspaper to thank them for running the first ad for free and the owner decided to pay for additional ads. The paper saved the Civic Center \$42,000 in advertisement fees. A separate political action committee will be formed to try to raise funds to support the needed improvements.

John showed a few artist renderings of the Civic Center. He said he'd like to come back to this Committee again in the future. Pat thanked John for all the work he's put into this. Peter added that when John came on the board, he brought a tremendous amount of energy and time to the work of the board.

This being an informational item, no action of the Committee was required.

#### **4. Reports and Updates.**

***Cooperative Purchasing program*** – a handout of the bid schedule was distributed. Joint purchasing is the biggest part of the Cooperative Purchasing program. This has been in place for about 40 years and it has stood the test of time. We have 20 items that we are currently bidding representing \$10 million in joint purchasing done by nearly 70 municipalities in Cumberland, York and Sagadahoc County. We are now looking at “green” items such as vehicle idle reduction and boiler maintenance. The idle reduction item is already available (IdleRight). Interest is also developing for LED lighting. Twenty-nine municipalities in Cumberland and York County do fireworks displays, so we've put something together and we've already received numerous responses. Nonmember communities pay a percentage for participating in the bids.

Dick Brobst asked about police cruisers and buses. Neal responded that we've explored that in the past but the specs are very different among municipalities and there has never been any strong interest. Philip added that Gorham is looking into LED lighting throughout their town.

The ***2010 Audit*** was just performed last week. Results will be shared with the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

***State Funding Issues.*** We will be seeing some changes with funding from state and federal entities. The GO MAINE program will have a significant cut in state funding. We will need to be creative to see how we can run the program with less funding. We have scheduled a meeting with the Commissioner. On the federal side, we will see cuts in EDA, CDBG, and perhaps others.

***Lakes Region Planning Initiative*** – We are working with a citizens group to design a public participation process. After that, we will go back to the participating

communities. The group will be meeting for the third time this week. We are trying to find ways to integrate land use and transportation planning.

***HUD – Southern Maine Partnership.*** Neal distributed a summary of the project and provided background. The idea is to integrate land use, transportation, economic development and sustainability into a plan that can be implemented at the local level. We have signed our agreement with HUD which establishes our effective date and we have 60 days to finalize a work plan, and 120 days to finalize the consortium partnership agreement. We've added additional partners – PROP, SMAAA, etc. Other municipalities and organizations are more than welcome to participate as part of the partnership.

***GPCOG/Cumberland County MOU*** – This will seek to clarify the respective roles of the two organizations and identify how we can work more closely together, avoid duplication, etc. The Steering Committee and County Commissioners met last fall and Neal has met with Peter Crichton and Valerie Landry a couple of times since then. They are finalizing an MOU.

Peter explained that the recent charter that was approved expands the board of commissioners from three to five. This November they will be voted upon. It is a home rule based charter. The districts have been reconfigured. They had a leadership retreat yesterday which was very positive.

***GPCOG Annual Meeting*** – May 25<sup>th</sup> at Ocean Gateway at lunchtime. Tom suggested the Civic Center as a topic for the meeting. *(Since this meeting, the date has been changed to June 9<sup>th</sup> at USM's Glickman Library.)*

No dues increase this year. The current formula is based on \$1 per capita based on the most recent Census but because we don't have formal numbers, we will stick with last year's numbers. It will be a challenging year.

Dick Brobst asked what's happening with COG doing a regional comp plan. Neal explained that the Lakes Region comprehensive planning process is going in that direction. We have an MOU with the State Planning Office.

- 5. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 1:35 P.M.