

Meeting Minutes of the
Palmer Citizen Casino Impact Study Committee
General Group Meeting
Palmer Town Building, Meeting Room 1
Nov.19,2008, 6:30P.M.

Meeting opened at 6:40p.m. by G.Chudy,Chair

Attendance

Present: Gerald Chudy, Anthony Dimitropolis, Joe Mastalerz,George Roy,
Steven Sears,Paul Wisnewski, Cathy Gehlhausen

Others Present: Ken Somerville, Palmer Journal

No minutes to be approved due to Mike Swiatlowski being absent.

G. Chudy asks if there is any new business?

S. Sears wants to discuss old business first.

S. Sears wants to discuss article in The Republican dated Nov.14,2008.

He asks for clarification from G. Chudy about the information that was given.

He questions the statement that the committee was informed about the 99 year lease..

The statement that G,Chudy states that the Casino has been very forthcoming and that they were going out of their way to try to mitigate any potential impact they would have To the Town of Palmer., and the traffic study.

S. Sears states that there really has been no mitigation from Mohegan.

J. Mastalerz states that he believes that Mohegan stated about being responsible for infrasture relating to Casino.

P. Wisnewski agrees w Sears that a traffic and wetlands study needs to be done, and for the committee needs to see the study that Brodie says was done in the summer. He agrees with Sears that they (the casino) has not really been forthcoming with information.

G.Chudy states that he believes the casino has been forthcoming on information due to the fact of their willingness to meet with us several times.

S. Sears questions the article again that G.Chudy says we would along with Mohegan work on holding job fairs. But states that when it was discussed during the meeting with Mohegan M.Swiatlowski says that its not the committees mission to hold job fairs and its up to Mohegan to work on that.

S.Sears states that we all were advised not to talk to media and that all info would go threw the chair. S.Sears says he has a problem with this.

S. Sears also states that he had a problem with G. Chudy driving around town with the developer and that it seemed improper to do so.

S.Sears states that G. Chudy was conducting an interview for this article in the hallway while the meeting was going on. S.Sears also states that the reporter never set foot in this room.

Jerry says that he would remove himself from the chair.

A. Dimitropolis motions that there should be no information given out right now.

Discussion

S. Sears requests a rotation of leadership

G. Chudy asks if we think he has been unethical in anyway?

Ken thinks he remembers this committee already established a policy earlier in the year about information being given out to the newspapers.

S.Sears wants to go to the town council about this to see how they feel.

P. Wisnewski states that we are a fact finding committee not a public relations one.

S.Sears states that the Palmer Journal is here tonight and why not at all our meetings?

Palmer Journal states that its next to impossible for them to be at all our meetings.

A.Dimitropolis suggests that all interviews be given in front of the committee

S,Sears again states that he doesn't think G.Chudy should be fraternizing with the developer and wants to go to the town council to discuss.

G.Chudy states that he did drive around with Mohegan for a day. They looked at houses, restaurants and were leaf peeping.

P. Wisnewski states that it doesn't look good. That the article is false and they have not been forthcoming with information like on traffic and the wetlands and other things.

A. Dimitropolis states that we have not seen any traffic studies and he agrees that they have not been forthcoming with information also.

A motion was made by S. Sears to consider rotating the chairmanship to break the bond With the developer.

P.Wisnewski wants it tabled due to the importance of this and that 5 members are absent.

A.Dimitropolis declines due to upcoming surgery.

A motion was made by A.Dimitropolis that no news releases are to be made unless a quorum is present.P.Wisnewski seconded. The vote passed (7:0)

A motion was made by S.Sears no contact or correspondence representing this committee shall take place with Northeast, Mohegan or the town liason unless in writing.

Discussion:

J. Mastalerz states that he has family gatherings and someone in that group is sometimes in attendance. What he can't visit with them?

S.Sears states that common sense needs to be in play.

J.Mastalerz states that driving around with Brody was just not kosher

A.Dimitropollis states there is a motion on the floor.

S.Sears asks if this could be done E-mail and copied to all members

G. Chudy asks why he can't have a conversation with someone he just met?

P.Wisnewski states that his job is not PR>public relations.

A.Dimitropolis states that G.Chudy shouldn't be speaking for the whole committee.

G.Chudy apologizes to the whole committee

S.Sears states that he wants the record set straight with an article.

G.Roy states that he thinks Mohegan has been accommodating

P.Wisnewski states that he wants S.Sears to write an article to set the record straight but we all have to agree on it.

A. Dimitropolis wants to review the tape of the last Mohegan meeting and hopes the Journal could be here for all our meetings.

Palmer Journal states that they would never set the story straight from another newspaper. They always contact the chair for a statement.

P.Wisnewski wants to table motion on correspondence and contact with the three of them. All agreed.

S.Sears wants to know if he can draft the letter and then Email to us?Is this part of open meeting laws?

Palmer Journal states that email is public record

P. Wisnewski states that no email should be done we need a hard copy

A motion was made by P. Wisnewski that S.Sears draft a letter for next meeting setting the record straight on this article, which we all have to agree on. A. Dimitropolis 2nd. The vote passed 7-0.

A. Dimitropolis suggested we get to new business like the housing report. J. Mastalerz 2nd. All agreed.

Discussion:

S. Sears questioned why Norwich, Ct. wasn't included into study?

G. Roy agreed after discussion that Norwich should be included.

P. Wisnewski says that the report is a good one.

A. Dimitropolis states that he thinks they should be quoting other places other than Middleborough

P. Wisnewski recommends the Hartford Study and suggests it be included into their report. He also agrees that Norwich should be included in their report.

P. Wisnewski agrees with study about the multifamily prices will rise

S. Sears questions how the single family housing will rise?

S. Sears questions that nothing in report about Atlantic City. What happened to housing prices there?

G. Roy and P. Wisnewski both call Atlantic City a dump.

P. Wisnewski again says to read Harvard Study

A motion was made by A. Dimitropolis to close meeting. Paul Wisnewski 2nd. All agreed.