

Minutes
Institute for Senior Professionals
November 21, 2006, 7:30 a.m.
The Gallery, Building K

Members Present:

Dave Bechtold	Mack Gay	Tom Reynolds
Stan Berg	Audrey Hains	Sy Shwiler
Robert Billingsley	Bill Hall	Joe Staton
Dale Blanchard	Inez Hall	Van Swenson
Steve Cherny	David Keener	John Vaughan
Russell Christesen	Gary McMillin	Barbara Wall
George Dean	Jane Meigs	Dann Wallis
George Fischer	Charlie Morris	Roger Wallis
Mike Flynt	Fred Pryor	Al Weidenbusch
Bob Garcia	Annette Register	Rae Williams

Members Absent:

Eileen Arpke	Don Litke	Larmon Salmon
Howard Dimmig	Sam Mac Nulty	John Streit
Jim Durham	Bill Maxson	George Wagner
Ben Grafton	Robert Milligan	Loyal Weaver
Doug Harvell		

Others Present:

Darrell James
Bob Richburg
Becky Tislow

Guest Speaker:

Pete Smith, Okaloosa County Property Appraiser

Guest Speaker

Mr. Pete Smith, Okaloosa County Property Appraiser was the guest speaker.

Call to Order

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David Keener called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Russ Christesen delivered the Invocation after which Charlie Morris led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

David welcomed Dave Bechtold's guest, Darrell James, who retired from the Air Force and then from Analytical Services Corporation

College Report

Dr. Richburg said the college has experienced growth this fall with the largest numbers seen in the baccalaureate programs, with 400 plus students. Dr. Richburg noted that the college has received its second Americorps grant for emergency management services and disaster planning; the Chancellor of K-12 programs, Dr. Cheryl Yecke, was on campus recently to honor OWC's Collegiate High School as a Blue Ribbon School. The CHS is one of only two public high

schools in the state of Florida to receive this designation. Dr. Richburg said the he expects approval of the Teacher Education program in February. He announced the OWC/Beach Community Bank Sporting Clays Shoot was a great success with 14 teams participating; Judge Robert Barron ruled in the foundation's favor and dismissed the case brought by Nathaniel Kelly, great grandson of the late Mattie Kelly. This most recent ruling should put to rest any standing by Ms. Kelly's distant relatives. The state's deadline for matching funds is January 31, 2007.

Chairman's Report

David reported that Bob Milligan had successful hip replacement surgery recently and read, with regret, a letter of resignation from long-time member, Walt Turner. David noted the upcoming Commander's Reception and the college's Christmas Reception with concert to follow on December 8, 2006.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the October 17, 2006 meeting were approved as presented. **Motion, Mack Gay; Second, Al Weidenbusch. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report

Bob Garcia presented the Treasurer's Report reflecting a balance of \$5,956.40. He reminded members that annual dues are now payable.

Committee Reports

Program

Van Swenson announced upcoming guest speakers, Dr. Karen Chapman, Director of the Okaloosa County Health Department, January; Sandy Safley, a former Florida Legislator who is now employed as a property insurance lawyer, February.

Membership

Barbara Wall had no report.

Social

Dave Bechtold reminded members that the Christmas Social would be held on December 13th with cocktails beginning at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The event to be held at the Eglin Officers Club will feature a choice of two entrees, London Broil and Chicken Breast or Parmesan Crusted Grouper. He asked members not having access to Eglin AFB to provide Becky with the Florida driver's license OR birth date and state of birth for them and their spouse/guest.

Project Opportunities

Dave Bechtold said he attended a briefing on Project C Square, headed by Drs. Beth Ritter (rittere@owc.edu) and Marion Herring (herringm@owc.edu). The project was funded by the "Wired" grant to increase numbers of students majoring in math, engineering and science. Dave

said Drs. Ritter and Herring expressed a desire for ISP to be a source of expertise for the project. ISP assistance would not necessarily be a group effort, but rather an individual one

Mack Gay is waiting to hear from Dr. Miller, Horizons of Okaloosa County. Horizons operates a residential facility that provides daycare for children six weeks of age until kindergarten. Horizons would like planning advice as they seek to expand to meet the needs of the county.

Mike Flynt said he had spoken with Walton County Administration Ronnie Bell who expressed a need for mediation involving county interests and wondered if ISP members might be interested in serving as mediators. Mack Gay said he is a Certified State Mediator, becoming one by taking a three-day course administered by the state. In answer to a question, Mack said some mediators are paid and some are volunteers, but the trend is for mediators to be paid; continuing education courses are required and recertification is required every two years. Dr. Richburg said the college would provide training space if members would be interested in taking the course.

Dave Bechtold asked Darrell to update members on the Emerald Coast Men's Chorus. Darrell said the chorus is interested in making the public more aware of the group and attracting new members; the group is looking to reinvent itself and to make it more modern. Darrell said that a formal letter requesting ISP assistance would be forthcoming.

Freeport Study

Steve Cherny said ISP is assisting the City of Freeport in preparing its Evaluation and Analysis Report (EAR). He said the task force has met, and will continue to meet, with city planners, the city council and citizens groups.

Critical Issues Focus Groups

Environment and Natural Resources

Mike Flynt reported on his visit to the Nokuse Plantation for a lecture on November 3rd.

Al Weidenbusch said the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance would celebrate its 10th anniversary with a reception on December 6, 2006, 5:30 – 8 p.m. in the Niceville Campus Gallery, Building K.

Transportation

George Dean said the Corridor Authority met to discuss US Highway 331 from Highway 98 to the Alabama line. He said the state will expand Highway 331 and currently is buying the right of way.

Al said he attended a Corridor Authority meeting in Panama City; dialogue with Eglin AFB is ongoing.

Disaster Response

Stan Berg said the committee has met with county administrators and will meet again within the next two weeks.

Workforce Housing

Fred Pryor had no report.

Citizens Involvement

David Keener said it is possible that a group similar to Tax Watch will be formed in Okaloosa County.

David said the Executive Committee would like to meet with the chairmen of the five Focus Groups on December 5, 2006 at 9 a.m. He will send an email inviting designated members to attend.

Sustaining Support

Web Site

Tom said calendar items are needed, but otherwise had no report.

Prime Time

Dann said the Prime Time spring brochure would be available on December 1, 2006 with registration to be held January 17, followed by classes beginning on January 27, 2007.

Around the Room

Rae Williams presented members with a Heritage Museum brochure and said the museum's new director is excellent.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.