

Minutes
Institute for Senior Professionals
September 19, 2006, 9:30 a.m.
The Gallery, Building K

Members Present:

Eileen Arpke	Mack Gay	Charlie Morris
Dave Bechtold	Bill Hall	Fred Pryor
Robert Billingsley	Inez Hall	Tom Reynolds
Dale Blanchard	Doug Harvell	Larmon Salmon
Steve Cherny	David Keener	Van Swenson
Russell Christesen	Don Litke	George Wagner
Howard Dimmig	Sam Mac Nulty	Barbara Wall
Jim Durham	Gary McMillin	Dann Wallis
George Fischer	Jane Meigs	Al Weidenbusch
Bob Garcia	Bob Milligan	Rae Williams

Members Absent:

Stan Berg	Bill Maxson	Walt Turner
George Dean	Annette Register	John Vaughan
Mike Flynt	Sy Shwiller	Roger Wallis
Ben Grafton	John Streit	Loyal Weaver
Audrey Hains		

Others Present:

Ronnie Bell
Jim Chitwood
Bob Richburg
Becky Tislow

Call to Order

Chairman's Remarks

David Keener called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.. Don Litke delivered the Invocation after which Dann Wallis led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

David called attention to the microphones for member use. He reminded members that they are asked to pre-register via email to Becky if they plan to stay for lunch at each monthly meeting. This will insure a more accurate count reported to Food Services and should result in a cost savings to the group.

David briefly discussed membership issues, reminding all that the ISP had lost several members this last year, and requested the Directors' assistance in identifying and recruiting potential new members. Representation from Freeport, Crestview and DeFuniak Springs are especially desired.

David asked members to consider holding breakfast meetings rather than luncheon meetings. A potential schedule would be breakfast at 8 a.m., guest speaker at 8:30 and the business meeting at 9:30 a.m. After some discussion, it was decided to try the new format for a month or two to see

how members like it. The first breakfast meeting will be held in November. **Motion, Inez Hall; Second, Mack Gay. Motion carried.**

David presented outgoing Chairman, Mack Gay, with a book clock in appreciation for his service as Chairman. Mack said that he had been a part of many organizations over the years, but none of which he was more proud. He said that he learned more than he had given in service to the organization and thanked members for their support.

College Report

Dr. Richburg reported that there is good enrollment in the bachelor's degree programs; the college has applied for a bachelor's degree in Teacher Education for K-8 but the State Board of Community Colleges has delayed a vote until after the first of the year; the District Board of Trustees will receive presentations from three architects for the Community Services Complex; Arts Center season packages are on sale; the first program will be *Seals and Seals* in the amphitheater October 27th; the OWC Foundation received a major gift from the late Mr. Donald F. Gallimore's Revocable Trust to name the Nursing and Allied Health Facility; construction is underway on 32 new apartment units, primarily for faculty and staff; the Paramedic and X-ray Technician programs each have maximum enrollment of 24 students; and the new Science Building is open and occupied.

In response to a question from David, Dr. Richburg announced his and Bill Maxson's appointment to the Committee for a Sustainable Emerald Coast; local resident, Michelle Anchors is chair. The committee's charge is to look at what we would like our four-county region to look like in 25-30 years. The report is due to the governor's office by December 2007.

Mr. Chitwood called attention to the brochure included in meeting packets pertaining to IRA gifts to charitable organizations and noted that Dr. Jim Durham and his wife, Bobbie, made such a gift last year to establish a scholarship designated for students in the Educational Preparation Institute.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the June 20, 2006 meeting were approved with one correction. **Motion, Howard Dimmig, Second, Bob Garcia. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report

Bob Garcia presented the Treasurer's Report reflecting a balance of \$3,572.40

He noted that in an attempt for annual revenues to exceed expenditures, the Executive Committee recommends that, beginning with the Spring Social, both members and guests pay \$5 to attend the Fall and Spring socials. The proposed budget was approved. **Motion Al Weidenbusch; Second, Mack Gay. Motion carried.**

Committee Reports

Program

Van Swenson announced upcoming guest speakers, Jim Curry, Okaloosa County Administrator, October; Lois Van Dam, NFSO Conductor, November; and Dr. Karen Chapman, Director of the Okaloosa County Health Department, January.

Membership

Barbara Wall said that membership stands at 44. ISP lost three members this past year, Art Lester, Eddie Phillips and George Russell. She reported that the Membership Committee met with Mr. Joe Staton and recommends him for membership. **Barbara Wall moved that applicant, Joe Staton, be accepted into membership; Second, Howard Dimmig. Motion carried.**

Social

Dale Blanchard said the Oktoberfest would be held October 11, 2006, 5 p.m. at the Eglin Yacht Club. The event will be catered by Porter's BBQ; if members would like to bring a salad or dessert, they are invited to do so. Guests will pay \$5 each at the door.

Eileen Arpke announced that the Christmas Social would be held December 13th at the Eglin Officers' Club. The social will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by OWC's Madrigal Singers.

Project Opportunities

David reported that Rick Harper, from the Haas Center for Business at the University of West Florida, has asked ISP to assist in researching cost of living data for the American Council for Community and Economic Research. Fred Pryor, who has volunteered to lead the effort should ISP decide to assist, said that graduate assistants do the work in Pensacola, but help is needed in the greater Fort Walton Beach area.

After some discussion, the membership determined this was not a project with which ISP should become involved. **Motion, Howard Dimmig; Second, Bob Garcia. Motion carried.** David and Fred will contact Mr. Harper with the group's decision.

David said that Dr. Richburg asked if the group might be interested in assisting the local Barbershop Singers in developing a marketing strategy. No official letter of request has been received from the organization, so a decision was deferred until such time as a request is received.

Russell Christesen said that Destin Mayor Craig Barker has asked if ISP might be interested in developing "Visioneering Seminars" for Destin residents to express the direction in which they would like to see Destin move in the years ahead. Russ will meet with the mayor soon and report back to the group.

Gary McMillin asked if ISP would be able to develop a project aimed at a workable solution for rising property taxes and insurance.

Al Weidenbusch suggested the group consider a study to look at the landfill issue with an eye toward vaporizing trash. David said he would refer this potential project to the Environmental and Natural Resources Focus Group.

Youth Village

Charlie Morris said he, Barbara Wall and Dann Wallis now serve on the Youth Village Board of Directors. He thanked Russell Christesen and Audrey Hains for serving on the committee. Charlie presented the completed Youth Village report for approval. **Motion to approve, Russell Christesen; Second, Bob Garcia. Motion carried.**

Freeport Study

Steve Cherny said the group has been meeting with the Walton County Planning staff in preparing the Evaluation and Analysis Report. The group will review each element of the Comprehensive Plan; determine if goals, objectives and policies are deficient; identify issues to be addressed and recommend possible solutions. The draft EAR is scheduled for completion by September 1, 2007. David said that even though George Russell has resigned from ISP, he will continue to support the Freeport Study.

Ocean City –Wright Project

Don Litke said the project is complete, but ISP may become involved again in the future. He said that the new property valuations would allow the Fire District to reduce the milage rate, hire ALS personnel and plan for the construction of a new fire station.

Don said that of all studies on which he has worked, this is perhaps the most satisfactory. ISP helped develop procedures for the Fire Department then stepped back to allow the department to do its own work. He said this should be a model in that ISP should guide and advise clients. Serving with Don were Mike Flynt, Mack Gay and Fred Pryor.

Critical Issues Focus Groups

Environment and Natural Resources

Loyal Weaver was absent, but submitted a written report identifying issues and potential future projects

Transportation

Al Weidenbusch said the group recently met to discuss assignments. Members will attend meetings of the Mid Bay Bridge Authority, the NW Florida Transportation Corridor Authority and the Transportation Planning Organization and will report their findings. Dale Blanchard has been nominated for membership on the TPO Citizens Advisory Committee.

Disaster Response

Don Litke said the group's focus would be to gain more knowledge about what is happening in the two-county area. He said ISP would supplement VOLAD, a volunteer group.

Workforce Housing

Fred Pryor said the group will meet soon to develop a focus group model.

Citizens Involvement

Doug Harvell said that the intent had been to put the Reference Manual is on the ISP website.

Sustaining Support

Web Site

Tom Reynolds said he and Bob Garcia are working on a member database and it is turning into a challenge.

Prime Time

Dann said 372 seats were filled for fall offerings, down significantly from last year.

Around the Room

Bob Garcia reminded members that dues are now payable. Dues are \$150, with checks made payable to ISP.

Al Weidenbusch asked about a possible “emeritus member status”, particularly whether emeritus members would receive the same perks that regular members do. David concluded the discussion by mentioning that the Executive Committee was in fact considering emeritus status, but was not yet ready to bring it to the membership.

Bob Billingsley reminded members of the study conducted for the City of Valparaiso’s Sanitation Department which resulted in a recommendation that the city utilize curb-side pick up. He said the city recently adopted the recommendation and advertised for a private sanitation company, but there were no bids.

Eileen Arpke said the NFSO Concerto Competition has been revived and looks forward to the competition

Don Litke suggested we all support the NFSO.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Guest Speaker

Mr. Ronnie Bell, Walton County Administrator gave a presentation entitled: “An Update on Issues Facing Walton County.”