

Minutes
Institute for Senior Professionals
June 21, 2005

Members Present:	Doug Bacon	Inez Hall	Larmon Salmon
	Dave Bechtold	Doug Harvell	Sy Shwiller
	Stan Berg	David Keener	Herb Steely
	Dale Blanchard	Art Lester	Van Swenson
	Russell Christesen	Don Litke	John Vaughan
	Howard Dimmig	Bill Maxson	George Wagner
	Mike Flynt	Charlie Morris	Barbara Wall
	Bob Garcia	Eddie Phillips	Dann Wallis
	Mack Gay	Fred Pryor	Loyal Weaver
	Ben Grafton	Tom Reynolds	Al Weidenbusch
	Bill Hall	George Russell	Rae Williams

Members Absent:	Eileen Arpke	George Fischer	Annette Register
	Robert Billingsley	Audrey Hains	Jon Streit
	Jim Durham	Sam Mac Nulty	Walt Turner
	Bill Edgington	Jane Meigs	Roger Wallis

Others Present: James R. Richburg
Becky Tislow

Call to Order

Dann Wallis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Al Weidenbusch to deliver the invocation. Dann then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

College Report

Dr. Richburg reported that summer enrollment is down by 10 percent because of Hurricane Ivan and a good, full employment economy. He noted that community colleges across the state hit by four hurricanes last year are experiencing much of the same enrollment decline.

Dr. Richburg said a problem the college faces is finding affordable, obtainable housing for new faculty. He said the OWC Foundation is looking at the possibility of building townhouses for new faculty hires to rent for a few years until they can afford a home in the area.

Dr. Richburg highlighted the growth in the college's BAS program which will see 16 graduates in December, one semester ahead of schedule.

Dr Richburg reported that the college is seeking funding for a Radiology Technology Program that will admit 18-22 students. He met with Mr. Wayne Campbell, CEO of the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, who said that the medical center will hire ten graduates from every class. Mr. Campbell has openings for 30 nurses and has told Dr. Richburg he will fund 18 additional nursing slots at OWC, so the program will be expanded this fall.

Dr. Richburg said Kids on Campus has 400 children registered; ISP members will be invited to the summer production of *Annie Get Your Gun*; construction of the Science Building is on schedule and will be completed in February 2006. The current Science Building will be renovated to house the Collegiate High School and "P" Building will house Student Services and instructional classrooms. In the 6-year time plan, funding will be sought for a new gymnasium with the current gym converted to an Arts and Sciences Building. Dr. Richburg said he expects funding for the South Walton Campus to be provided next legislative year.

In answer to a question concerning the Mattie Kelly Estate, Dr. Richburg said he is eager for the issue to come to closure and is excited about the programs to be funded with sale proceeds. After the issue is at rest, Dr. Richburg will send a letter to donors explaining points of which they may not be aware.

Chairman's Report

Dann read a letter from the Ocean City-Wright Fire Chief asking for assistance in developing and writing a Strategic Plan. Motion to approve, Al Weidenbusch; second, Tom Reynolds. Motion carried. Dann said that officers for the 2005-06 year would act on the request. He also noted that ISP member, Audrey Hains, won her age division in the four-mile Gate to Gate Memorial Day run/walk; and noted the photograph in the Summer OWC Outlook that showed him giving an ISP check to Ms. Allison Everitt and the Madrigal Singers.

Dann urged the new Executive Committee to approve placing any surplus funds into the Visiting Lecturer Fund.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the May 17, 2005 meeting were approved as corrected. Motion, Howard Dimmig; second, John Vaughan.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Bechtold presented the Treasurer's report that reflected a balance of \$4,336.58. The Treasurer's report was accepted. Motion, Mike Flynt; second, Mack Gay.

Committee Reports

Program

Eddie Phillips announced that Mr. Dan Sambenedetto, Geographic Information Systems Manager for Okaloosa County would be the day's speaker. Dann thanked Eddie for the great programs he arranged for this past year.

Membership

Barbara Wall reported that three new members were added to the roll this year and thanked members of the Membership Committee for their service and also thanked Becky Tislow for her assistance. At this time, Dann also thanked Barbara for her leadership of the committee.

Social

Bob Garcia said that the Spring Social went very well. Thirty-four members were in attendance and the food was quite good.

Web Page

Tom Reynolds asked members to notify him of items to be placed on the calendar. He sees the site as a place for information relative to ISP current or future programs.

Special Committee

George Russell said he met with Walton County Administrator, Ronnie Bell, recently to discuss ways in which ISP might become more involved in Walton County projects. Mr. Bell was interested in five areas: 1.) a long range facilities plan; 2.) fee schedule for services; 3.) recommendations for

the human component of the "911" system; 4.) employee retention; and 5.) comprehensive procedures for animal welfare. George reported that Mr. Bell will talk to the County Commissioners and get back in touch.

Projects:

Nursing Project

Dave Bechtold said that Ms. Linda Whintont, Director of Nursing, wants ISP to become involved in the nursing program and is developing a request to be brought to Dr. Richburg.

Dave also reported that the American Cancer Society informed him that therapy providers and transporters are communicating and the program has begun in five pilot areas of the state.

Heritage Museum

Ben Grafton suggested this project be closed and removed from the agenda.

Children in Crisis

Don Litke said a grant to hire the Executive Director has been received and a search committee has been established with Loyal Weaver serving as a special consultant. Don said the hope is to hire an Executive Director by the first of August. Site preparation planning and design is moving forward and the design of the first three homes to be built is complete.

Youth Village

In the absence of Bill Edgington, Mack Gay said he met with the Youth Village Board of Directors on June 7, 2005 and presented questions from Bill to aid in preparation of the Business Plan, which Ms. Bogar will answer with the next 30-60 days. Mack said significant progress has been made in this organization and now ISP can be helpful.

Affordable Housing

Mack said the League of Cities voted to host an Okaloosa-County wide workshop on the housing situation in our area. Mr. Larry Sassano, Okaloosa County Economic Development Council, met with members of the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce concerning this same issue.

Senior Activities

Dann reported that the planned Prime Time trip to Washington DC has been delayed until spring. Brochures regarding the fall registration will go out the second week in August, with registration to follow on September 13th.

Focus 2020

Environmental and Natural Resources

Loyal Weaver had no report.

Transportation

Bill Maxson said the Steering Committee working on the tri-county Regional Transportation Authority draft agreement has decided to postpone its presentation to the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization because the relationship between the RTA and the eight-county NW Florida Corridor Authority needs to be clarified. It was noted that Governor Bush

signed the bill authorizing the authority. In the meantime, the RTA draft agreement will continue to be reviewed and revised so that a final document will be available when and if needed.

Public Safety

Stan Berg said the committee has met twice to plan future steps and is mainly talking about timing. The committee met with departing County Manager, Chris Holley, to get his input before he leaves for Tallahassee. Stan said that he and Mack spent a recent morning observing a realistic hurricane exercise in the Emergency Operations Center.

New Officers Seated

Dann introduced Mack Gay as new Chairman and thanked Dr. Richburg, Jim Chitwood and Becky Tislow for their assistance and the membership for their diligent work this past year.

Mack presented Dann with a gift reflecting the organization's appreciation for a job well done. Mack said that Dan "has been a very effective chairman and carries the organization's reputation very well."

Mack said that from time to time, organizations must pause and look back to see where they have been and where they want to go. He said he would like to host a workshop for the 3rd or 4th week in August (a date/location as yet undetermined), to be facilitated by Dr. David Goetsch, OWC Vice President and Provost. The workshop's purpose would be to assess ISP's vision, goals and approach – where we have been, what seems to have worked, what type of projects do we want, how do we get more member participation in the projects and at social functions. The time frame will be 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. with lunch provided and members will be contacted for precise information regarding the workshop. Mack said the September program would be devoted to discussing results gleaned from the workshop.

Around the Room

Don Litke said the Memorial Day "Picnic with Pops" was great and congratulated Dale Blanchard for the good work.

Inez Hall said the AAUW recently received a grant from the Florida Humanities Council in the amount of \$3000 for each of three years to present programs of interest to the public. The next program will be "The Impact of Women on Florida Culture." More information will follow.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Dan Sambenedetto, Okaloosa County Geographic Information Systems Manager, was the speaker.