

Escambia County 4-H Task Force
Meeting Notes – January 22, 2013

A meeting of the Escambia County 4-H Task Force was held on Tuesday, January, 22, 2013, in the Extension Office auditorium.

Via Polycom, Dr. Keith Diem, Associate Dean and State 4-H Program Leader, and 4-H Task Force Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. CT, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Task Force members present: Brian Bell, Jimmy Cunningham, Whitney Fike, Robert McLaughlin, David Nielson, Anne Peterson, Sharon Tanner, Dave Timberlake, Dana Beth Tyler, Stacey Ward, and Rebekah Mobley. Task Force member Absent: Eli Miller.

Dr. Diem stated that everyone should have received and reviewed the meeting minutes of December 5, 2012. With no changes, Brian Bell made a motion to accept the minutes with a second by Bob McLaughlin. Minutes approved by verbal vote.

Dr. Diem emphasized that the main purpose of this meeting was for creating the process, and reminded the Task force of the following key points:

- This is a six-month process;
- Task Force works for the Dean of Extension;
- Objective of Task Force is to meet the needs for 4-H and its priorities. If it benefits other groups, that's a bonus but the Task Force is not responsible to other groups.

There was discussion about the interactive map provided by County GIS—that it did not include school district property—in particular, the Roy Hyatt Center.

There was discussion about the need for property not only for showing livestock but possibly for raising as well—in particular, swine, that would take 120 days. One member commented that the Stefani Road property was not zoned for animal science. Pamela Allen stated the zoning is agriculture /residential and penning of animals is allowed within 50 feet of the boundary. Currently, we do not have intentions of raising animals on Stefani Road—certain animals would be allowed for clinics and workshops but would not be raised on the property. 4-H currently does not own or raise any animals on the Langley Bell 4-H property.

There was discussion about using the Equestrian Center's outside arenas which is free to 4-H but does not include the covered arena. One 4-H Club uses the Langley Bell Center for its club meetings but utilizes the Equestrian Center for horse-related activities.

M. Allison Meharg stated that Florida State Parks Services has an agreement with 4-H for use of their property with advance coordination.

Dr. Diem made the following points:

- Cost analysis needs to be conducted—fee to use versus maintenance of property.
- In the MOU, item #4, states: All proposed options will be considered by the 4-H Task Force, which will review and find facts on all options and present these facts to the Dean of Extension.
- Stefani Road building project is moving forward and is outside the Task Force's charge.

4-H faculty members will be responsible for determining unmet needs. Therefore, Kay Brown and Allison Meharg gave brief presentation about 4-H programs and shared potential needs.

- They reviewed a list of the top priorities for 4-H that included a matrix of highest needs with required facilities to support the need.
- 4-H's motto is "learn by doing" and 4-H members accomplish this through a year-long project.
- Members are required to do a "Record Book" and a demonstration/presentation of project.
- Senior 4-H members—14 years and up—can submit their Record Book to the State level.
- While some 4-H members are involved in the livestock show, others are interested in outdoors activities such as bird watching, reflecting the varied interests in 4-H.
- Facilities to meet 4-H needs/activities are owned, borrowed, or rented.

From the information provided, Dr. Diem confirmed that there appears to be potential continued interest in showing livestock such as cattle and/or swine so it would be beneficial to identify possibilities for how that need could be met. M. Allison Meharg stated that in 2010, half of the youth that showed swine in the Spring show were 4-H members. Although the ability to raise livestock for 4-H projects could be a possible use for property, there are significant liability and management/supervisory concerns including the need for volunteers to oversee such activities because this is not part of the mission of Extension. The primary role of Extension faculty is developing and conducting educational programs, not running a facility or overseeing raising livestock.

Based on discussion of the Task Force, Dr. Diem summarized the following possibilities for which a method to develop or accept proposals would be needed:

1. Equestrian Center;
2. Bayer property;
3. Water Management District;
4. Roy Hyatt Center;
5. Other real property—publicly owned; and
6. Non-land options—using existing property.

There was discussion about receiving proposals for privately-owned property. One member suggested that private owners bring forth their proposal and Task Force would not actively seek out private landowners. Pamela Allen stated that she has been maintaining a folder with various emails and/or other correspondence from citizens with property for sell or know of potential property. At the end of the discussion, it was decided that no private property proposals would be vetted at this time with the exception of the Bayer property because of the publicly expressed interest in it for this purpose. After further discussion, it was decided that the Task Force would be divided into three groups/teams to explore the following types of proposals:

1. Private Land Options—the Bayer property. This team consists of Jimmy Cunningham, Whitney Fike, and Stacey Ward.
2. Publicly-Owned Land Options—includes federal, state, local government land. This team consists of Brian Bell, Bob McLaughlin, Anne Peterson, Sharon Tanner, and Eli Miller.
3. Non-Land Options—various things like property/facilities free for use, lease, rent, etc. This team consists of Dave Timberlake, David Nielson, Dana Beth Tyler, and Rebekah Mobley.

One member asked if they could contact staff for resources support and it was agreed that an Extension faculty member would be assigned to each group to provide assistance as needed: M. Allison Meharg for the Private Land Options team; Kay Brown for the Publicly-Owned Land Options team; and Pamela Allen for the Non-Land Options team. Dr. Diem stressed that faculty would neither do the research nor write the report for the Task Force because they are only liaisons to the Task Force, not members.

Dr. Diem reviewed the draft criteria handout. Leading up to the next meeting, the Task Force will be collecting facts to share at the next meeting. In the fact-finding process, space needs should be explored—minimal needs versus ideal needs. If the needs of 4-H are met and it also meets the needs of other groups, that will be an added bonus to be noted. But, again, the Task Force is only responsible for researching the needs of 4-H.

In closing statements, Dr. Diem emphasized that there is nothing that stops the teams from talking to each other. It was decided that the next Task Force meeting needs to remain closed to public comments since the teams would be bringing forth initial information. This will also be the time to see if the criteria handout needs to be tweaked and if or what experts may need to be brought into the vetting process.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be in 4-5 weeks based on availability of the Task Force members.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM CT.