

Escambia County 4-H Task Force
Meeting Notes – December 5, 2012

A meeting of the Escambia County 4-H Task Force was held on Wednesday, December, 5, 2012, in the Extension Office auditorium.

Dr. Keith Diem, Associate Dean and State 4-H Program Leader, and 4-H Task Force Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Dr. Nick Place, Dean of UF/IFAS Extension, and then asked each member of the Task Force to introduce themselves and tell the group something about their background and/or interest in 4-H.

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

Dr. Place welcomed the Task Force members and stated the charge of the Task Force:

- Study the additional needs of the 4-H program as it relates to animal science, outdoor education and natural resources education. This is in addition to the new 4-H facilities on Stefani Road;
- Find facts on all proposals brought forward that are in the best interest of 4-H in Escambia County, and to collectively develop forward-thinking and sustainable options that will serve to advance the 4-H Youth Development Program; and
- Asked the Task Force to serve in a manner that upholds UF/IFAS Extension and benefits 4-H and local stakeholders in Escambia County.

Dr. Place set parameters for the Task Force:

- In all the work that is done by the Task Force, it must adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as established. It has been signed by several parties;
- There is no intent of moving the Extension office. The Task Force will only address the animal science needs—outdoor education and natural resources education; and
- Not to go outside of the Task Force charge.

Dr. Place's closing comments:

- Asked Task Force to take self-interest out of picture and to look at what is best for the organization to take it to the next level;
- Thanked everyone for their service—the time and effort that will be invested as the Task Force works through the process; and
- Offered County Extension Director, Pam Allen, as a resource to the Task Force by providing data and background material as needed throughout the process.

Comments from Dr. Diem:

- The Task Force was established as a result of the sale of the Langley Bell 4-H Center after the 4-H youth voted to sell and the Escambia County Board of Commissioners voted for the sale to happen.
- Task Force will serve in fact-finding only.
- Task Force is not subject to Sunshine Law and meetings are open to the public.

Since the vote and as Escambia 4-H moves forward, Dr. Diem has kept up with the news article and responses. In particular, he noted particular comments asking why UF/IFAS (University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Science) is involved with 4-H. In response to the Task Force, he made the following comments.

- In 1914, USDA became part of Extension as a land grant university. This includes FAMU and UF.
- By law, 4-H is under the IFAS umbrella.
- The University of Florida supports the 4-H program in its grass-roots efforts that are locally based.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was coordinated between three attorneys representing the following groups—UF, Escambia County, Escambia County 4-H Foundation and 4-H youth. This collaborative effort was based on objectivity as the fairest way without the emotions.

Dr. Diem went over the meeting agenda which covered topics such as county profile, program information, facilities, other information and next steps.

- While Task Force meetings will be open to the public, the public will be observing only. The Task Force will determine when the public can participate.
- Task Force members must always show respect for each other.
- Because the Task Force is a fact-finding body, there is no benefit to lobbying members.
- Task Force will consider all proposals that conform to the MOU.
- All proposals will be vetted and researched. Subject matter experts may be called upon, as needed.

Dr. Diem reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding relating to money available to the Task Force.

- From the land sale, \$1.6 million is available for Task Force purpose.
- From the land sale, \$2.0 million is housed at UF with the interest earnings to be used for 4-H program support in Escambia County. This money is not available or of concern to the Task Force.
- Item 4 in the MOU speaks to the two options.
 - Option 1 – Specific to property at Roy Hyatt. This option will absolutely have to be researched.
 - Option 2 – This is the catch-all option that will allow for all other proposals.
- Task Force to look at 4-H program needs—not the needs of other groups—only 4-H. If the result also helps other groups, then even better.

- Every proposal must conform to the parameters of the MOU.
- Pam Allen will serve as a resource to the Task Force per Dr. Place.

Pam Allen made the following comments:

- Escambia County has committed \$1.5 million of LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) funds for the 4-H building.
- The building will be constructed on 23 acres of county-owned property adjacent to current Extension Office. The building will be used exclusively in support of 4-H's mission in Escambia County.
- The County will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the 4-H building.
- County has allocated an additional \$250,000 in LOST funds to go towards the support of the animal science/natural resources education piece of the 4-H program. This is to compliment the new 4-H Center that will be constructed on Stefani Road.

Barbara Wingo, Associate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for UF, made the following comments:

- Task Force will serve in a fact finding capacity.
- Task Force not subject to the Sunshine Law and meetings are open to the public.
- Public Records laws apply.
- If Task Force members have any legal questions, please let Dr. Diem know and he will relay it to Dr. Wingo.
- The Task Force is a UF/IFAS appointed team and every meeting will be advertised.

Profile Population – Pam Allen

- Handout distributed and/or reviewed of public schools and the number of youth. Of the school population, 61% is limited resource—receives either free or reduced lunch.
- Handout distributed and/or reviewed with census data.
- Handout distributed and/or reviewed of county community centers—Task Force needs a map showing locations.
- Handout distributed and/or reviewed of County Equestrian Center.
- Copy of letter from Pensacola Interstate Fair distributed and/or reviewed volunteering to help with property and services.

Dr. Diem stated that 4-H consists of partnership between federal, state and county governments.

- There are approximately 19,000 youth in traditional 4-H clubs.
- The current three major program areas are STEM (science, technology, engineering, & math), healthy lifestyles, and citizenship/leadership.
- School enrichment programs are short term.
- Goals include diversity and increase awareness.

- Of the UF 4-H budget, 90% goes to salaries while 10% (approximately \$60,000) is for operations. Other funding for 4-H comes from registration fees and private donations.
- \$2 million are restricted funds and \$42,000 leftover as unrestricted.

4-H Information – Kay Brown and 4-H Animal Science – M. Allison Meharg

- Job descriptions for 4-H agents—program, livestock/small farms, and EFNEP (Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program).
- Handout distributed and/or reviewed of EFNEP program that targets low income adults and youth.
- Handout distributed and/or reviewed, and PowerPoint presentation of brief summary sheet about 4-H.
- Handout distributed and/or reviewed, and PowerPoint presentation of 4-H club requirements.

Dr. Diem explained some differences between 4-H and FFA, to clarify some questions from Task Force members and misunderstanding of 4-H by the public and others.

- Both 4-H and FFA are educational organizations that serve youth.
- 4-H is a comprehensive youth development program offering a wide variety of subject matter.
- FFA focuses especially on agriculture and livestock, and preparing students for careers pertaining to agriculture.
- 4-H is open to all youth ages 5-18.
- FFA is geared towards high school youth—sometimes it may include middle school.
- The 4-H program, which is sometimes delivered in school settings, consists primarily of out of school programs with extensive involvement of volunteers to offer its programs.
- FFA is a school-based program led by teachers.
- There is some overlap in certain skill sets such as agriculture/livestock, public speaking and leadership, particularly with rural audiences.

Facilities – Pam Allen

- Handout distributed and/or reviewed of current extension office and Langley Bell Center maps.
- History of Extension Office—built back in 1983 to house about 13 people. Extension currently has 18 personnel.
- Langley Bell Center (LBC) has a microwave tower lease with the County. Because of the lease, the County pays for the utilities and labor at the LBC while 4-H pays for the needed materials.
- Handout of program use of the LBC.
- M. Allison Meharg conducted phone survey of 16 clubs that were contacted—13 responded—with the number of times they have used the LBC for a 4-H club program. One Task Force member suggested an anonymous survey to all clubs, including Navy and project clubs—not just traditional clubs. Allison will follow up with this suggestion.
- Fall Harvest Days is a large program that is held in Oct-Nov.

- Langley Bell Center is widely underused by 4-H clubs for club activities. Currently, one club uses the site for regular club meetings and two additional clubs held activities for their club events outside of an Extension sponsored activity.

Task Force Format – Dr. Diem

- Development of a “fact finding” form—things you need to know under “criteria for proposals”.
- Identifying possible options to consider.
- Work in teams.
- Come back and share—refine and reaffirm.
- Need staff to identify unmet needs.
- Handout for Initiative 7 (Extension Road Map) – Listening Sessions were conducted statewide with 4,000 responses.
- Task Force members split into subgroups.

Parking Lot Issues – Dr. Diem

- What needs and program goals are facilities going to address?
- What is missing? A “gap analysis” needs to be conducted.

Miscellaneous Issues – Dr. Diem

- Task Force needs more information. Staff needs to develop a top-10 list of needs from volunteer and staff perspective.
- County property available?
- Property donations?
- Sustainability issue—land you cannot access or swamp land.
- Bring ideas from others to the table.

In closing, need feedback from Task Force.

Extension staff to conduct a Doodle Poll to meet again by no sooner than the third week of January 2013.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:12 PM.