

Draft Minutes
Elections Advisory Panel
June 15, 2011

Members present:

Leslie Goller	Patt Sher	Natalie Alden
Kathy Carithers	Dan O'Connor	Tracie Collier
Joe Mosley	Scott Wiley	

Member(s) absent:

Josh Cockrell

Visitor(s):

Professor James Woodruff

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by our EAP, Leslie Goller.

Motion: L. Goller to approve the minutes from April 20, 2011 meeting with corrections. Corrections to be made 1) correct to list Jack Webb as City Council president and 2) correct to state the Folio Weekly "bouquet" from St. Johns County.

L. Goller asked Supervisor Holland to discuss redistricting with the panel. N. Alden asked Supervisor Holland how the redistricting would affect some voting issues. She suggested to the panel that it may be a good idea for a panel member with the time to attend a few meetings to monitor the meetings to report the outcome to the group.

J. Mosley suggested the group take no action as an organization. Panel agreed and decided to appoint one member to attend meetings.

S. Wiley asked panel for understanding as to the involvement of the EAP with the redistricting process.

L. Goller commented that the EAP's stance is to ensure that Amendments 5 & 6 is followed on the local level even though they were passed on the state level.

S. Wiley informed the panel the redistricting meetings dates were listed in the Times-Union. He continued by stating the redistricting committee of new city council members would be appointed by President Stephen Joost.

J. Mosley informed the group that legislatures set up a website to give general information and appear transparent for the community at myfloridaredistricting.org

D. O'Connor suggested writing a letter that stated the EAP **strongly suggest** the spirit of Amendment 5&6, changing the districts allowing fair boundaries, equal representation, and fair process ridding the county of zig zag shape districts.

K.Carithers stated the wording should be based on population and federal requirements. Currently, the redistricting is designed to protect the incumbent, community interests which results strangely drawn boundaries.

In regards to the letter, S. Wiley ask the panel to use that the EAP strongly suggests the local officials follow the redistricting outline in Amendments 5&6 used on the state level. (requested to be shown in the minutes-S. Wiley)

Political Signage

L.Goller shared that many political signs are still visible throughout the community which means candidates are not adhering to the sign ordinance.

N. Alden stated after the election is over and the signs have not been removed, then candidates should be fined an amount per day until the signs are removed.

Actions by EAP

L.Goller wrote letter to editor for the upcoming May election encouraging voters to vote early and it was printed. She also suggested some political action of educating voters of the importance of updating their signatures. Numerous ballots were rejected due to signatures.

N. Alden suggested the SOE office remind voters to update their signature when voters call to request an absentee ballot.

S. Wiley asked how many ballots were rejected due to signatures. L. Goller answered not a significant # in this last election.

S. Wiley asked were voters notified. L. Goller answered yes. (Voters are notified by letter.)

Old Business

L.Goller expressed new election laws which reduce the number of early voting days from 14 days to 8 days. She expressed concern over the loss of the Sunday before the election, stating the significance this day is to churches voting on Sunday.

L.Goller suggested to panel to ask Supervisor Holland how he plans to handle the changes with early voting.

Panel member suggested creating a flyer with election related information to educate community regarding changes that we can take to stores, schools, groups.

D. O'Connor expressed his disappointment with the headphones from the AutoMARK in his precinct. He also stated he would prefer for it to be moved to a less noisy spot in the precinct.

N. Alden stated the AutoMARK in her precinct is positioned in a secluded spot of the precinct distancing the user away from everyone else.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17th at 3 p.m.