

**OKALOOSA COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JUNE 6, 2002**

1. The regular meeting of the Okaloosa County League of Cities Executive Board of Directors was called to order on Tuesday, June 6, 2002 at 12:00 p.m. at the Cinco Bayou Board Room by President Brenda Bush.

**Present:** President Councilwoman Brenda Bush, Crestview; Treasurer Mayor Sara Carroll, Cinco Bayou; Mayor Craig Barker, Destin; Mayor Glenda Glover, Ft. Walton Beach; Mayor John Thomas, Mary Esther; Councilman Al Swihart, Niceville; Commissioner Elaine Tucker, Shalimar; Councilwoman Fay Miller, Laurel Hill; Okaloosa County; and, Colonel Jimmie Smith, Eglin Air Force Base. **Absent:** Mayor Gary Combs, Shalimar; and, City Commissioner Heyward Strong, Commissioner Shirley Ransom.

2. President Bush called attention to the minutes of the last meeting and asking for approval of same. Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Miller to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2002 meeting. Vote: 8 ayes, 0 nays 2 absent (Combs & Strong), Motion carried.
3. At the call for the Treasurer's Report, Ms. Carroll had not arrived; however, she was reported to be enroute to the meeting.
4. No Unfinished Business before the Board.
5. President Bush called for any new business. Mayor Thomas introduced Ms. Debbie Marrs, Governing Board Chairperson to the Okaloosa County Library Cooperative. She states she appreciated all the cities support in the past. Ms. Marrs spoke to the Interlocal Agreement currently standing between the cities of Crestview, Destin, Ft. Walton Beach, Mary Esther Niceville & Shalimar. She stated that the present agreement charges that the patrons living in a city not covered under the interlocal agreement pay a large membership fee. She further stated that her Board has appointed her to amend the Interlocal Agreement and go before the Cities requesting their support of the amendment which will enable everyone in Okaloosa County to use the libraries. Much discussion ensued relative to this issue. Ms. Marrs urged all cities to attend the County Commissioner's budget review meeting on July 16, 2002 @ 1:00 p.m. at the Water & Sewer Building. Currently the number of County residents utilizing the libraries is greater than the number of residents residing within the municipalities; consequently, the Library Co-op is requesting increased funding for the libraries from Okaloosa County. The various members present all agreed that a unified position by the league members was absolutely essential in order to accomplish the Coop's objective. More discussion ensued. Motion was made by Ms. Tucker to initiate and send letters of support by Cinco Bayou, Shalimar and Laurel Hill; seconded by Mr. Thomas; Vote: 8 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent; Motion carried.

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Mr. Swihart addressed the Board with regard to Ms. Marrs' history and background and that he had worked with her on numerous occasions and what a wonderful job she has done for the Coop.

President Bush states that Commissioner Strong is attending the Policy Committee Meeting in Orlando to finalize the Leagues policies.

Regarding the charter bus to Boca Raton, Ms. Glover asks for counts of those desiring to ride the bus to the annual conference. After a brief discussion, and lack of passengers (30 required), it was decided the bus would not be needed.

Ms. Bush stated an honor was bestowed upon our area recently when Councilman Sam Hayes of Crestview, was selected as Elected Official of the Year by the NWFLOC.

6. The President called for Announcements/Reports from each City. They reported as follows:

**Cinco Bayou** - Mayor Carroll updated the Board on the Bat House stating it is completed and up and running. She further advised that the City was approved for a grant of \$50,000 toward park improvements. Cinco Bayou will send four attendees to the Annual Conference.

**Crestview** - Ms. Bush announces the opening of the new library. The Scott Dawson, Hope for You Festival, a non-denominational festival will be held July 11-14, 2002 at the Spanish Trail Park nightly beginning at 7:00 p.m. She also stated that Artist Larnell Harris and several other singing groups would be there and she encouraged the Board to attend.

**Destin** - Mayor Barker informs the Board his City is currently interviewing for the position of City Manager. He presently is leaning toward the selection of Jill Silverboard for the position; however the interview process is on going. He states that 5 Councilmembers and the Mayor will attend the Annual League Conference this year. Also, a reminder that the Quarterly League Dinner will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> aboard the Moody's Party Boat. He further stated the Comp Plan revision is in progress and that the Council will take a field trip to visit the new development in San Destin - Baytown Village. After a brief discussion the Board recommended that he forego that idea due to violation of the Sunshine Law that would not be beneficial. After further discussion with regard to the requirements, the Mayor decided to investigate further avenues.

**Fort Walton Beach** - Mayor Glover states the new library is operational and that it is a beautiful building and invites all to see it. She also stated that another successful Billy Bowlegs Festival has recently ended.

**Laurel Hill** - Councilwoman Miller states the Fire Truck is finally running. The grand opening of the Laurel Hill Grill was held on Memorial Day and is nicely decorated with an eclectic flair. The town is currently discussing PAWS issues with the County. The Library fund is on the town's next Council agenda; will report more on the next Board meeting.

**Mary Esther** - Mayor Thomas states his City has just purchased a Fire Department "Safe House" for touring the schools, etc. to educate the children with regard to house fires.

**Niceville** - Mr. Swihart reports that road repairs are still underway. Turkey Creek Park Trail is almost complete and is open to the public to enjoy a picnic and hike the trail. The skateboard park is to be built on North Long Boulevard. The Okaloosa County Veterans' Memorial Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday @ 10:30 a.m. at Fort Walton.

**Shalimar** - Ms. Tucker announced that Rick Garcia has resigned and relocated to South America; however, Tom Callahan will replace him. The Shalimar Police are sporting new blue uniforms purchased from the City of Mary Esther and all are very appreciative of the sale. Local editor, Casey Brooks was invited to visit the City of Shalimar. As a result - she saw beneficial actions and now can better understand the operations of a City. Ms. Tucker invites other cities to have her visit their operations also.

**Valparaiso** - Commissioner Strong is absent - no report given.

**Eglin AFB** - Colonel Smith invited the Board to attend the Town Hall Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. This will be the last meeting with Colonel Bird before his departure to Texas. The Okaloosa County Tax Collector is opening an office on Base located in Building 210 - Mission Support Building @ 2:30 p.m. on the same day; easy access to this office is through the East Gate.

7. Ms. Bush announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 11, 2002 due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

  
**BRENDA BUSH, President**

