Emerald Coast Republican Liberty Caucus
President Sherry Chapman
Vice President Rene Johnmeyer
Treasurer David Farrow
25March2025

Sherry Chapman Called the Meeting to Order
Marilyn Farrow Prayer
George Oedsma Pledge

✨ Summary

The meeting focused on upcoming elections, community engagement strategies, and election integrity issues, leading to decisions on voter outreach and candidate vetting sessions. Key action items included mobilizing support for election integrity bills and planning a bus trip to advocate for these issues. The meeting also focused on legislative support for various bills and updates on local government issues, including a lawsuit dismissal and zoning matters. Key decisions included sending thank-you notes to legislators and reviewing bids for a new attorney. Additionally, the meeting addressed opposition to a conditional use permit for a wastewater treatment plant and discussed collaboration between the Republican Club and the Liberty Caucus, with key decisions including scheduling a joint meeting and collecting dues for membership.

📋 Outline

1. Opening Prayer and Pledge • 00:00:00

- Marilyn led the opening prayer, emphasizing blessings for candidates and thoughtful voting.
- The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance together.
- Sherry Chapman, Rene Johnmeyer, David Farrow, Christa Waite, Stan Jandura were respectively nominated, accepted and voted to be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Secretary by the members present. "AI LePenne" will be recording and producing the minutes using Sembly.
- Review of prior months minutes were read and accepted by members.

2. Upcoming Elections and Community Engagement • 00:02:36

- The primary election is scheduled for April 1st, with a special election on June 10th.
- Plans were discussed to encourage community members to vote and increase voter outreach efforts.

3. Election Integrity Concerns • 00:03:18

- Issues regarding election integrity in Florida were raised, including the need for audits and transparency.
- Concerns were expressed about the handling of ballots and the integrity of voter rolls.

4. Candidate Vetting Process • 00:04:14

- Joshua Sik, a candidate, highlighted his military background and key issues like Second Amendment rights. He removed himself from the election race to be with his family.
- The vetting committee reported on candidate scores and suggested improvements for future evaluations.

5. Legal and Funding Issues • 00:06:58

- Legal concerns regarding election processes and potential actions against questionable practices were discussed.
- Recent statements from Trump about eliminating certain election machines raised questions about election security funding.

6. Voter Roll Integrity • 00:07:51

- Concerns were raised about outdated and inaccurate voter rolls, emphasizing the need for regular audits.
- Participants discussed the challenges faced by election officials in maintaining accurate records.

7. Organizational Structure and Elections • 00:09:39

- Membership dues were proposed at $45 annually, with discussions on potential discounts for couples.

8. Election Committee Reports • 00:16:02

- The voting committee reported low voter turnout and emphasized the need for increased community engagement.
- Candidate scores from the vetting process were shared, highlighting the need for a more focused evaluation approach.

9. Concerns About Local Government • 00:25:12

- Issues regarding the transparency of local government finances and the handling of funds were discussed.

- Participants expressed concerns about the mayor's effectiveness and the management of community projects.

10. Endorsement Strategy Discussion • 00:31:32

- The group debated whether to endorse candidates or provide recommendations, with a preference for recommendations due to the election timeline.
- Concerns were raised about the potential negative impact of endorsements based on past experiences with candidates who did not win despite receiving endorsements.
- A motion was made to maintain the current approach of recommending candidates based on their scores rather than formal endorsements.

11. Election Integrity Updates • 00:46:06

- Updates were provided on the status of election integrity bills, with challenges in getting them on the legislative agenda.
- A new executive order from Trump was discussed, which addresses various aspects of election integrity, although some areas were noted as lacking.
- The group emphasized the importance of tracking ballots and ensuring that proposed bills align with the new executive order to enhance election integrity efforts.

12. Legislative Support and Coordination • 00:00:00

- The group discussed the need to support specific bills due to an executive order and the urgency of contacting relevant parties.
- Bob White is a key contact for updates on bills, and there is a need to correct inaccurate email addresses for outreach.
- Action item: Diane and Tom will assist in identifying necessary contacts for legislative support.

13. Voting Update • 00:05:45

- As of noon, approximately 7,400 people had voted in the county, with Republicans leading by about 1,500 votes.
- The total number of votes increased to 8,351 later in the day, indicating active voter participation.

14. Lawsuit Dismissal and Legal Updates • 00:07:13

- The interim attorney provided guidance on dismissing a lawsuit, indicating that the situation is improving for the city.
- The city will cover its own legal fees, and the council will review bids for a permanent attorney at the next meeting on April 8th.

15. Legislative Priorities and Funding Issues • 00:09:58

- The mayor presented three legislative priorities, but there were obstacles in moving them forward due to lack of support from the current congressman.
- Concerns were raised about state funding cuts and the impact on local projects, particularly regarding wastewater treatment.

16. Zoning Meeting Outcomes • 00:15:08

- A recent zoning meeting resulted in the approval of two items by the Melbourne zoning board, which is positive news for the city.
- A conditional use request for a wastewater reclamation facility will be presented to the Commission, with plans for attendance at the upcoming meeting.

17. Opposition to Wastewater Treatment Plant • 00:16:17

- Commissioner Smith is opposed to the conditional use permit for the wastewater treatment plant due to personal connections with individuals living adjacent to the property.
- It was suggested that community members should attend a meeting at Tiger Park to express their opposition to the project.
- The group believes that public sentiment will influence the vote of local officials.

18. Collaboration with the Republican Club • 00:24:27

- It was proposed that the Liberty Caucus share meeting time with the Republican Club to increase attendance and engagement.
- The meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month, with the Republican Club meeting for the first hour and the Liberty Caucus for the following hour.
- The first joint meeting is scheduled for May 1st at 5:30 PM.

19. Membership Dues Collection • 00:29:25

- Membership dues are set at $45 per person and $65 per couple, with collection being managed by David.
- Members were informed about accessing meeting minutes and other communications through the Republican Club website and a list serve.
- Instructions for logging into the website and changing personal information were provided to the members.

Part 1 Link

https://webapp.sembly.ai/minutes-public/6tu-e1097226111b2d6bbdb6211902fa7990a2a49ebb

Part 2 Link

https://webapp.sembly.ai/minutes-public/6tu-3efd875fb5559c30dd236a9a91fb1506fbf8475b