

Pension Reform Task Force
February 10, 2011
7:30 am
Finley Community Center

Summary Minutes Revised

Chair Bartley called the meeting to order at 7:30 am. All committee members were present and introduced themselves. Chair Bartley went over some housekeeping items and reminded the Task Force members of the Code of Conduct and Brown Act.

Minutes from January 25, 2011 were approved.

City Manager Kathy Millison recapped the items from the last meeting and an overview of items being covered today on the agenda. John Bartel will be speaking at our next meeting on March 10, which will last for three hours. Ms. Millison also reminded the Task Force of the goals of the Task Force.

Ms. Millison explained the Social Security Windfall Elimination handout.

Human Resource Director Fran Elm gave her Power Point presentation on the Pension Benefits for Santa Rosa City employees. Kathy Millison took over and gave the history and current status. Discussion by the Task Force followed.

City Attorney Caroline Fowler gave presentation of the legal framework for paying pension benefits to City employees: City Charter, State law, PERS, Meyers-Milas, Brown provisions for collective bargaining.

Chair Bartley asked about the process for a Charter revision. Ms. Fowler clarified that it is to be reviewed every ten years and 2012 will be the time frame for the review. Even with a charter change to allow other pension programs, current employees and retirees will still have the benefits they have now. All subject to legal challenge however.

The LOCC has taken steps to look at pensions and we will provide the report from them on Sonoma and Marin Counties.

There are 7-8 different groups in miscellaneous employees and all have to be aligned. Total compensation is looked at in overall collective bargaining. There is very little flexibility.

Task Force member comments: Jack Thomas commented on the slide presentation from Fran Elm and Kathy Millison. He felt that investment is the prime driver and that should be listed at #1. On Slide 9, he wanted to know the dollar amount of the deficit; and wanted clarification of info on Slide #10.

Chair Bartley reminded the Task Force that the Feb. 24 meeting is cancelled. There is a seminar and pension discussion in Petaluma which all Task Force members are invited to attend. Next meeting will be on March 10 at 7:30 am and will feature John Bartel. The meeting will last approximately three hours.

Public Comments:

Rich Scheblik enjoyed the slides but feels some info needs to be clearer. Felt like there was less panic at this meeting. Hopes that Task Force is getting a good picture of the pension issues and is pleased with the progress.

Chris Albertson commented on the PERS newsletter cover article and wants to know the projected savings in five and ten year increments. There is no quick fix and he's concerned with the long term.

Chair Bartley asked that the Task Force provide questions/comments to the City Manager.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am