

**Benefits Focus Group Minutes
(06/07/06)**

Note: Regular BFG member names are listed; non-members may attend but are not always listed.

<u>Regular Members</u>	<u>Alternate Members</u>	<u>Staff Advisors</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
Cindy Cumbie	Joyce Dolan	Kurt Hoverter	Diane Vanderwest
Bill Gaines	William Tatum	Linda McKinney	
Dolly Gamble			
John Glanden			
Pat Horan			
Carol Karr (for Casey Humpert today)			
Tom Laracey			
Gail Magliano			
Dick Minster			
KayKae Thomas			
Javier Vargas			
Al Woodle - Chairperson			Total pres= 17

Call to Order

Al Woodle called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 7, 2006 and asked for a roll call.

Roll Call

Diane Vanderwest called the roll and recorded the meeting. Carol Karr attended for Casey Humpert, Van Wezel.

Approval of Minutes from 04/05/06

Al Woodle called for approval of the minutes from the last meeting of April 5, 2006. The final minutes were approved with a minor typing correction on p. 2.

Weight Watchers at Work Update – Weight Watchers instructor, Janeen updated the group on the Weight Watchers at Work Programs’ successes. The third session begins today, June 7, lasting until August 23. Each session has between 16 and 24 people and last 12 weeks. The cost of the 12 week program is \$144 of which half is reimbursed if you lose of 5% of your body weight and attend 10 of the 12 meetings of the session. The first session’s participants lost a total of 282 lbs; the second session’s total was 226 lbs for a combined total of 508 lbs. A morning Yoga class is in the early stages of development as well.

Smoking Cessation Initiative Update – KayKae Thomas

Information was provided in the May, 2006 issue of the Sarasota Spirit on the Smoking Cessation Program through Dr. Kirk Voelker, MD. The full cost of \$325.00 will be paid by the City’s wellness program. If a member needs to go back within the year, the City will pay half of the \$100 cost. Twenty-five plan members signed up for the program in May. Of these members, 18 are active, 2 are dependents, 4 are retirees and 1 is a dependent of a retiree. Of the nine that signed up in June, 6 are

active, 2 are dependents and 1 is a retiree. KayKae will be provided with updates from Kim in Dr. Voelker's office as the program progresses. HR has received a quantity of slide guides entitled, "The Cost of Smoking". If anyone is interested in obtaining one, please contact KayKae in HR.

Monthly Cost Review – Dolly Gamble and Linda M. McKinney

Dolly provided the group information on the City of Sarasota Group Medical and Dental Fund Status for year ending May 31, 2006 and for May 31, 2005, for comparison. Both revenues and expenses are up. The total fund balance as of May 31, 2006, is \$1.7 million compared to \$1,051,318 last year after revenues and expenses are calculated.

OPEBS Update – Kurt Hoverter

Kurt gave an overview of the OPEBS meeting workshop with the Commission on May 4. Kurt provided background for the upcoming OPEBS Commission workshop in July. A number of questions were raised about the potential retiree impact of the OPEBS requirement to recognize the City's liability for current and future retiree medical plan offerings. This liability is \$180 million over a 30-year period.

The retirees of the BFG are quite aware of the issue and are awaiting the decision of the Commission regarding plans to fund the liability.

Kurt briefly discussed a VEBA (Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association) spreadsheet, which is available in HR. This provided assumption options for possible funding. VEBA is a savings account to help fund medical costs. The OPEBS situation has to be clarified before the VEBA or health savings accounts can move forward.

PBA negotiations begin next week.

Other Business – Group

Pill-splitting – Robert Blinch-Edwards was absent and could not provide the group with the info requested on pill-splitting. Chairperson Woodle would like this item put back on the agenda for the next meeting August 2nd.

KayKae Thomas will be retiring October 1, 2006, with her last day being July 28, 2006. We wish her all the best.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

Al Woodle adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m. The next BFG meeting is scheduled to be **Wednesday, August 2, 2006**, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Room #100 of the Federal Building.

/dv

Minutes Approved: _____

Al Woodle, Chairperson
Benita Saldutti, Vice-Chairperson