



Orange County 4-H Advisory Council Meeting  
August 27, 2018  
Orange County Cooperative Extension, Food Lab  
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.. Extension Agent for 4-H & Youth Development, Jonathon Smith, welcomed the group.

The Cooperative Extension non-discrimination statement was shared with the group.

We then went around the table and asked each attendee to introduce themselves. The following Advisory Council members were present: Carol Lovingood (Hummingbirds 4-H Club), Watt Parker (Orange Durham Cattlemen's Association), Daniel Roberson (Orange County Sheriff's Office), and Karen McAdams (Retired Extension Agent/Local Farmer).

Mr. Smith then reviewed the advisory council mission statement which is "To help Orange County Cooperative Extension and 4-H serve the needs of county citizens as a model educational delivery system".

Mr. Smith then introduced a new initiative he wants to introduce in 2018-2019 using the Habitudes curriculum created by Growing Leaders. This program would be in a small study group format and allow teenagers to discuss topics such as career readiness, leadership and character education, through visuals. Mr. Smith stated that he needs to be trained on the curriculum and he has applied for a grant from Carolina Farm Credit to cover the cost of student manuals and available technology. Travel and conference fees would come out of the state travel budget once approved by the county extension director and others.

The Council unanimously supported the decision for Mr. Smith to attend training with Growing Leaders in Atlanta sometime in December 2018 or January 2019. Carol Lovingood indicated that this program could start with students as early as 6<sup>th</sup> grade because this is a critical time in social skills development. She stated that while students are great at using social media and their phones, those skills often do not translate to other technology and in-person social situations. The rest of those in attendance agreed generally with the need to help kids develop soft skills so they can be successful in future jobs.

Mr. Smith then introduced the topic of the Orange County 4-H Summer Camping Program. In 2018, Orange County 4-H offered the following summer experiences for youth:

- 5 weeks of Middle School Summer Sizzle Camps (Cooking, Sports, Art, STEM, and Environment)
- 1 week of traditional overnight camp at Betsy-Jeff Penn (Age 9-13)
- Mini Robotics Camp (5-11)
- My Youth Preparedness Initiative (13-18)
- 4-H Congress (14-18)
- Citizenship Focus (14-18)
- YouthVoice (14-18)

Mr. Smith shared that we are considering adding an expanded elementary robotics camp, an elementary farm to table camp, and a partially revamped Summer Sizzle program, in 2019. The following two questions were posed to the group: 1. What other opportunities are available that we could take advantage of?  
2. Are current camps meeting the needs of today's youth and communities?

The following input was provided by the advisory council:

- Parents are looking for 5-day camps because it allows them to prepare for childcare and other events during the summer.
- An elementary farm to table program is a good idea. Would probably work best for students in grades 4-6.
- For the farm to table program, it would be good to show students backyard chicken coops, let them learn some showmanship skills, and view agriculture in production.
- Summer Sizzle
  - Summer Sizzle is very successful and has been an asset to Orange County.
  - Orange County 4-H should look at the budget and consider adding more weeks and staff if possible.
  - Advisory Council would like Summer Sizzle to take better advantage of community and regional businesses and experiences to improve student learning.
  - Would like to see Sports theme updated to Health & Wellness or something similar and show kids connections between healthy eating, exercise, Sports Management, sports medicine, and careers.
  - Fun activities are good and students need a break throughout the week so they won't lose focus with the academic learning. But there should be a good balance.

Mr. Smith then shared an update on fundraising. Orange County 4-H will be drafting letters to local businesses to ask for support. Students will be traveling with the 4-H agent to visit businesses and individuals in December/January. Our goal to complete the Orange 4-H endowment with the Ag Foundation is ~\$6700. Orange 4-H is considering using part of 4-H fund balance in the county to meet that goal. The Advisory Council unanimously agreed with that idea and encouraged Mr. Smith to pursue this possibility. NCSU staff have provided us with a list of 4-H alumni in the area and we will complete a mailing as well to these stakeholders to solicit support.

Mr. Smith then shared information on grant applications for 2018. Orange County 4-H has applied for a ~\$3000 grant from Carolina Farm Credit to fund the purchase of iPads for an agricultural education outreach program for youth and to fund the Habitudes project as well. Upon notification from Carolina Farm Credit, we will then begin a grant application to the Helping Hand Foundation to purchase a set of Dash & Dot robots for Orange County 4-H to use for a camp and for school enrichment projects. These two grants work hand in hand as the iPads from the Carolina Farm Credit grant could also be used with our robotics program.

Mr. Smith then shared an update on 4-H activities since May 2018. He also shared the names of the new 2018-2019 4-H County Council officers which are President Grace Ridenour, Vice President Namron Chapman, Secretary Olivia Chapman, and Reporter Kaitlyn McBroom. At-Large Representatives are Riley and Emmy Shopmyer.

The floor was opened for additional discussion. The Council shared that it is pleased with the progress being made with Orange County 4-H and thanked staff for their dedication.

Mr. Smith thanked the Council for the robust discussion and for their support.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M..

The following comments were submitted in advance of the meeting by advisory members that were unable to attend the meeting.

Rachel Hawkins (Schley Grange)

- 4-H could assist with the back packs for kids they fill at local sites with food for the weekend.
- 4-H could assist at Farm Fare and Hog Day. In fact if you assist as a group at Hog Day - you receive part of the income - from the day. Non-profits receive the money from Hog Day.
- Letting people know that 4-H is NOT only a FARM kids club is important! Get on the NextDoor Neighbor site - 2,500 people in Orange county mostly in the urban areas are on the site. The parents are always asking about thing to do place the brochure on the site.
- If there is a horse club - invite "city" kids to come participate - watch - etc.
- I think the Summer Sizzle is a hit. From what I heard this year's was totally full!
- I do not know how 4-H could handle more kids for Summer Sizzle, unless there was one for the Northen End and one for the more southern end - would take more man power and planning.
- Also the camps - explain exactly what goes on at camp and entice participation by advertising on FB, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram Nextdoor, etc.
- I know staffing is short for paid persons to assist. I know the summers are a good opportunity to fill camps, etc. IF people understood exactly what 4-H is.

Lori Rogers (Backroad Sharp Shooters 4-H Club)

- Shooting Sports seems to have a lot of interest. My only problem is getting kids to want to do more on a county level. Kids today are pulled in so many directions, it hard for them to really commit to anything.