

Davidson County
UT-TSU Agricultural Extension Board Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2018

The Davidson County UT-TSU Agricultural Extension Board met on Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at the Davidson County Extension Office, Metro Southeast Bldg., at 1417 Murfreesboro Pike, second floor.

Members Present: Mr. Mark Kerske, Chair, Ms. Sherri Smith, Mr. Ed Smith, Ms. Sylvia Ganier, Mr. Bobby Edwards

Members Absent: Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter, Mr. Will Nesby

Mark Kerske called the meeting to order. A quorum was present for the transaction of business.

Officer Report: Mr. Kerske gave a brief report that that had met with Michael Barry, Extension Office Director, to discuss the agenda and items for the meeting. Mr. Kerske then asked for a report about the partnership in teaching courses with Nashville Community Education. Extension Agents Elizabeth Sanders, Andy Lantz, and Dan Harrell gave a synopsis and overview of the programs occurring with Nashville Community Education. Ms. Sanders mentioned the success of the Seed to Table program, which she co-taught with Dan Harrell and the Beginning Canning class. She pointed out the classes had reached the maximum capacity, so another class was currently being offered to the public demand. She also mentioned the request for an Advanced Canning class. Dan Harrell shared that his experience with the groups included that the participants felt empowered after they had attended, whether it be in gardening or food preservation. Andy Lantz mentioned similar success with his Beginning Bird Watching classes for adults. He has also had outstanding participation, so he is currently teaching his second program of 2018 there as well. The agent mentioned that there are many benefits in partnering with Nashville Community Education on joint programs, such as NCE does the marketing, they handle most of the logistics, and there is a small fee associated from the participants, so UT-TSU Extension receives some funds which are used to help sustain the programs. Information about Nashville Community Education is available on their website <http://www.nashville.gov/Nashville-Community-Education.aspx>

There was also a report given on the nutrition education billboards which will be coming this summer in Davidson County to promote the nutrition classes. Davidson County will be received ten billboards across the county. The board members were given a packet of the example billboard and a map of where they will be located. They are funded by the USDA grant dollars in Knoxville.

Old Business: Mark Kerske called on Mr. Barry to address the budget. He addressed the group that the budget is still being discussed in Metro Council. The budget that Mayor David Briley presented to Council had no reductions or additions in funding for Agricultural Extension. Bobby Edwards asked Mr. Barry, if there was still a plan to relocate the Agriculture Extension office? Mr. Barry replied that the relocation of the office was still in the Capital Improvement Budget, which is separate from the Operating Budget.

Mr. Barry then gave an update on current staffing at the Agricultural Extension Office. He reported that since the last board meeting in February, the following staff have resigned... Samantha Verdell, UT TNCEP Program Assistant; Shanail Brown, TSU SNAP-Ed Program Assistant; Hunter Isbell, UT 4-H GROW Agent; Allison Koon, UT Administrative Assistant; and Deneen Gault, UT EFNEP Program Assistant. Mr. Barry stated that everyone who had left had received a better career opportunity, and that they had enjoyed their employment with UT-TSU Extension and had gained valuable experience by being there.

Mr. Barry then gave an overview of the summer interns who are working with the office this summer. Brookelyn Abbott and Halle Clare are both Tennessee Technological University graduates in Family & Consumer Sciences who are completed their graduation requirements by doing a volunteer internship for 180 hours this summer. There are two Tennessee Extension summer college interns, Kelly Holler and Jenna Jones. Kelly Holler will be spending part of her internship at the Governor's Residence and at the Extension Office. She will have a special project to create field trip and visitor tour guides for the Governor's Residence to include the gardens and greenhouse. Kelly is a student at Vanderbilt University majoring in Special Education. Jenna Jones is a Tennessee State University Graduate Student in Agriculture Education. She is interning with David Cook this summer and is learning about Extension horticulture and agriculture programs. There are also four summer high school interns in the Agricultural Extension office through the Metro Opportunity Now program. These students are shadowing agents and helping with several programs during their six week internship.

Mr. Barry shared with the Board the quarterly reports for the period January-March 2018. The Board was asked to review these data and if questions, be ready to discuss them at the next meeting.

New Business: There was discussion of upcoming UT-TSU Extension programs. Mark Kerske asked the Extension Agents who were in attendance to give an update about their programs. Those in attendance who gave updates included: Andy Lantz, Mary Wakefield, Elizabeth Sanders, and Bianca Skye Hamilton. Andy Lantz spoke about Junior 4-H camp as well as upcoming camps for 4-H members, including: 4-H Grows STEM and Leaders day camp at TSU, 4-H Electric Camp, and 4-H Culinary Camp. The 4-H agents have also assisted with other organization's camps in Davidson County this summer by providing programming, including some at Metro Parks. Mary Wakefield spoke about conducting nutrition education programs at MDHA resident association meetings, Senior Citizens groups, health fairs, 50 Forward, and working with the Edgehill Community garden. Mrs. Wakefield also talked about the training she teaches for Senior Nutrition for the Metro Social Services teachers. Elizabeth Sanders gave a report about the Family and Community Education (FCE) club retreat in Cookeville, where 8 members attended from the County. She reiterated about the Nashville Community Education Classes, as well as her involvement with the 4-H Culinary camp and becoming certified as an instructor in First Time Homebuyers' Education classes. Bianca Skye Hamilton spoke about her experience she is gaining as an Agent in Training, including attending a day at Junior 4-H camp, shadowing other agents, and conducting some On My Own financial simulation classes.

Mr. Barry also mentioned the TSU Small Farm Expo will be held on Thursday, July 19 at the TSU Agriculture Research facility. They are also planning an Urban Agriculture component for Wednesday, July 18 at TSU. Mr. Barry stated that he would send the flyer and information about the upcoming TSU events to the Ag Board members.

Sylvia Ganier presented information to the Ag Board about the Les Dames d'Escoffier Scholarship and Grant opportunities for continuing education for women involved in food and/or farming. The web link for more information is <http://lesdamesnashville.org/scholarship/>

The date for the next Board meeting was decided. It will be on Thursday, August 16th, 2018 at the Agricultural Extension office.

Close/Adjourn: A motion was made by Sylvia Ganier and seconded by Ed Smith to adjourn. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.