

Davidson County

UT-TSU Agricultural Extension Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August, 29th 2019 1:00 PM

Ag Extension Office, 2nd Floor

1417 Murfreesboro Pike

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 at 1:02 A quorum was present for the transaction of business.

Introduce Visitors/Guests:

John cooper had been invited to attend the meeting as a mayoral candidate. Dusty Owens from Metro is in attendance

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

There was a motion to approve minutes as shared Sylvia moved to suspend the reading of the minutes.

Officer Report:

Old Business:

FY20 Budget Update:

The budget is currently in revision and as soon as it is approved from metro, everything should be cleared to be approved. The current Annual Metro budget is \$331,000. Half of the agents in the office are split employees as they receive checks from both metro and University of Tennessee/ Tennessee State University. All other expenses include

services such as IT, additional phone connections, pension and other systems represents money sent to UT for benefits. Funds have been requested for 2% for salary increase for those on staff which is applicable to the metro portion of their salary. This is set to be received by the employees by August 31st. With the possibility of a Mayoral change, capital spending approval budget should be available within the next two months.

Office Administration Update:

Due to an issue in the office, a decision was made to appoint a new County Director for the Davidson County office. Because the County Director position is not hired, but appointed from existing qualified staff, someone from the current staff will be appointed and assume the role of County Extension Director. We will offer the opportunity for all eligible staff to apply for the appointment. Once UT approves to move forward with a new appointment, the Agriculture Board along with the UT Regional Director will interview applicants and appoint a new County Director.

All budgeting will be transferred to a new operating systems this week, so the new county director will have to go through new trainings. The training cost for the director tends to be double that of other employees. Full compliance and support will be given to the director.

Rachel Stinson has resigned and returned to school. This position is 100% UT funded and hope to be filled by October 1st.

Mark Kerske, Ed Smith, and Sylvia Ganier are interested in serving on the interviewing committee for the new County Director. That interview will likely take place within a metro conference room.

Program Updates:

Andy Lantz and Lindsey Harrison: Andy and Lindsey reported that summer was busy with summer camps. They had a 3-day camp with 18 participants. Interns from the office also participated and assisted with facilitation. This has led to interest in out of school club participants. 15 students that attended Jr. 4-H Camp. The goal is to have more scholarship opportunities to be able to send more youth to camp. New contacts have been made with the 4-H program which meets in schools from September to April. They have programs in 15 schools with 4th and 5th grades ranging from 1 to 4 programs per school. Davidson County

sent 4 youth to Culinary Camp at Tennessee Technological University Campus. Three youth attended Jr. High Camp. Community clubs are being established across Davidson County to reach middle school youth. These are 1.5 hour meets including a homeschool group and take place all over the county. Two volunteers will be shadowing to potentially facilitate these programs. Food waste is the focus of the community clubs this year. Approximately 10 youth are part of the 4-H Honor Club. Two youth attended the Citizenship Washington Focus program in Washington, D.C. The Butterfly Exhibit will have 4-H youth running the youth on designated days.

Michael Barry: He is currently assisting in ag focused work and preparing for the state fair. He provided an update from the 2017 census on Davidson County farms. Ag board members received passes to the Tennessee State Fair. Michael was on News Channel 2 promoting the fair and butterfly exhibit. He stated everything will be in the same location as last year and this will be the last year to be in the old buildings. Next year we will be in the new buildings at the bottom of the hill. The country ham show, giant pumpkins and watermelon competitions will continue and Regional 4-H competitions will continue in the old buildings as usual. He reported no further information has been shared in regards to locating a new location for the Tennessee State Fair. The fair kicks off on September 6th- September 15th and all are welcome. The Country Ham Legislative breakfast will host a mayoral debate and the Ag board is encouraged to attend.

Ebone' Colclough: Ebone was able to make the full transition from TSU – UT. She has made over 900 direct contacts with 5 sites. She launched the “Eat Well, Feel Well” program which is a program for seniors. The impact of that program lead to a participant sharing the learned the difference between sell by and use by. One college student was advised by her for a 10-week process. This experience lead to her understanding more ways to engage diverse audiences. Ebone also served as the housing director for Culinary Camp which was hosted at Tennessee Technological University.

Mary Wakefield: She facilitated a community gardening program which provided education to 33 limited resource adults. They learned about pests, harvesting, irrigation, and planting fall seasonal vegetables. 499 direct contacts have been made by providing nutrition education at 8 different locations. The Dining with Diabetes program has been delivered to 38 adults. Mary has served on the MDHA health fair committee and

has reached 800 potential members through this contact. She has participated in the Edge Hill night out against crime event. She shared information on gardening and nutrition at and even with 200+ attendees including the chief of police and Mayor Briley. By special request, Mary participated in a video interview regarding her work with the EFNEP program. Mary as also earned 8 hours of Professional Development.

Elizabeth Sanders: A new partnership has been made with Jobs Plus Nashville to support the Skill Up Tennessee Program focused on workforce preparation. She has offered 14 canning focused informational sessions, workshops, and hands on sessions. Three sessions of Dining with Diabetes which has reached over 40 individuals including those with special needs. Elizabeth had one college intern for 10 weeks that she advised. She also served as the Co-Director for the Senior High Culinary Camp. A \$500 grant was awarded to Elizabeth and Ebone for incentives for Walk Across Tennessee. User fees for this quarter have totaled to \$1,176 which can be invested back into additional programs.

Bianca Johnson: She participated in 5 health fairs at various locations such as community centers, churches, and senior citizen sites. She has enrolled 15 new participants at Fifty Forward for the "Eat Well, Feel Well" program. 32 New participants have been enrolled in the program from Fifty Forward Knowles. Bianca will continue to plan and implement regional Program Assistant trainings for 2019 with the next training taking place in September.

Charley Guilyot: 5 sites were offered TNCEP program with various programs. She participated in 3 outreach programs and had 500 direct contacts. She has been making efforts for increasing retention so she has offered double the number of classes as last quarter.

Sandra Bush: She is offering programs at four different sites. She has served 186 families with 139 graduates of the programs. 64 Sessions have been offered to assist low income families. Since June 30, 94 participants have graduated and 94% have increased eating dinner at home and have incorporated new physical activities within their daily routines. Approximately 85% have adopted new food safety practices at home including using a food thermometer and handwashing.

Other Items:

New Business:Timeline for leadership position appointment:

When the time comes to appoint a new County Director, there must be another Ag Board meeting. Nahsville.gov

Board Discussion:

Mr. Kerske shared information about how to keep farmers informed regarding the tariffs and policy changes. He is interested in what programs and resources are being offered for small farmers within the county.

Mr. Stewart shared information regarding the resources that are available for farmers. This includes an Ag Economic department which all farmers have access to. New information and programs are now available to support healthy mental health of farmers. Agents have this information to share with farmers and encourage healthy farmers. For those interested in learning more about the economic impact of farming as individuals can reach out to get in contact with specialists who can assist with budgetary analysis and related questions. Mr. Stewart Expressed the importance of agents being able to recognize the signs of anxiety and stress and provide appropriate resources.

Comments:

The next meeting will be held on December 5th, 2019 at 1:00 pm at the Ag Extension Office.

Close-Adjourn:

A motion was made by Ms. Smith and seconded by Mr. Edwards to adjourn. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 pm.

