

Davidson County

UT-TSU Agricultural Extension Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 5th, 2019 1:00 PM

Ag Extension Office, 2nd Floor

1417 Murfreesboro Pike

Members Present: Mr. Ed Smith, Ms. Sylvia Ganier, Mr. Bobby Edwards, Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter,

Members Absent: Mr. Mark Kerske- Chair, Ms. Sherri Smith, Mr. Will Nesby

Jim Stewart called the meeting to order at 1:30. A quorum was present for the transaction of business.

Introduce Visitors/Guests:

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes were read. Silvia Ganier made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Bobby Edwards. Minutes were approved.

Officer Report: Mark Kerske was not present for the officer report.

Old Business: Program Updates:

Andy and Lindsey: Ag literacy week went well. Freshman went to elementary classes and read stories about agriculture and did a lesson. We have a new partnership with Farm Bureau and they have donated money for prizes for the 4-H activities. Studio 10 is giving the 4H kids a tour of their stage sets and gave 25 tickets for the students to attend their play on Sunday. County wide public speaking contest is this month. Community clubs are going well. Parents and students are more active and involved than the in-school clubs.

Elizabeth/FCS: New group- Alliance for change. Looking for facilities that can be used for demonstrations and classes. Eager to be more active in the communities. She created a program, Table for two, to teach people how easy it is to create food at home and not going out to eat all the time. Canning classes and dining with diabetes program has been going well and has continually been asked to come back. Interest in those programs have been increasing. Has a job readiness program for SNAPED called SkillUp to help those with trying to find a job. Partnering with Belmont to provides these services.

Sandra/EFNEP: Been working with 47 families on teaching them food safety. Has graduated 43 of those families and 5 will continue into January.

Michael Barry/Ag: Served on multiple committees for service training of extension agents and worked on curriculum writing. Attended multiple meetings and trainings to help better extension and how we can better serve the community.

Farm Bureau Christmas lunch board meeting on December 12th. Need someone to attend and represent Ag Extension. Possibly Dan Harrell.

New Business:

Office lease expires on this building in the future. Lease may be extended, but we need to look for a new facility. Seeking partnerships to have shared space. Met with Cohn School as a possibility and have a few other leads. UT will provide furniture for us and help with the move of phones and internet lines.

Budget: Only about \$15 higher than budget for the internet bill. \$20,000 in salary savings. On track with the rest of the budget.

Office Christmas December 17th.

Waiting on UT to appoint a program director. Until then, Jim will remain interim director.

Board Discussion:

Ed Smith- asked if there was a metro member who can review an email he received about issues with the leadership position in the Extension office. He wants to know if there is a process on how to proceed with this and if there is a legal counsel he needs to refer to. Only disciplinary actions can be taken by the entity the employee works for (UT/TSU). Jim Stewart said that Mark Kerske could reach out to Susan Jones and if she wants to meet with the board, they can do that. Jessica Cross will get the

contact information for Susan Jones to Jim Stewart and he will distribute it to the board. Mark will need to be notified.

Thelma asked about when her time to rotate off of the Ag board committee. It will be July/August 2020 when her term is expired.

Comments: The next meeting will be held in March 2020 at 1:00pm at the Ag Extension Office.

Close-Adjourn: Ed Smith motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Sylvia Ganier.
Meeting was adjourned.