

Monday, October 7th, 2024 1:00 PM
Ag Extension Office, 2nd Floor
1417 Murfreesboro Pike

Members Present: Mr. Reggie Marshall- Chair via Zoom, Mr. Mac Wilson, Mr. Jim Barnes, Ms. Gigi Drumright, Joan Clayton-Davis and Ms. Barbara Devaney

Open-call to order- Mac Wilson called the meeting to order as there was a quorum. Ms. Drumright made a motion and Mr. Reggie Marshall seconded.

Reading and approval of previous minutes- Joan Clayton-Davis

Motion to read the minutes- Barbara Devaney seconds.

Mac Wilson right motions to approve minutes, Reggie Marshall seconds

Quorum voted to approve minutes.

Officer report- Mr. Marshall reports this past Friday had a USDA event. The event details Conservation plans and will be one in Antioch through NRCS. Reggie will send out the date of the event. Goal is to get more people signed up. Jim asks if there will be questions about applications on how to get green belt status. Reggie highlights the big issues in Strawberry's and Reggie will address a committee tomorrow about fruit and vegetable diseases. Let Reggie know so he can present it tomorrow.

Extension Program Updates:

Amy Dunlap

- Had successful turnout at the Nashville Fair and for the butterfly exhibit. Will like to add signs in Spanish for visitors. This week the statewide Master Gardener event is held. She will meet different partners and hear the importance of agriculture in urban spaces. She recently opened the applications for the Spring Master Gardener class. They are on the extension and Master Gardener website. Applications will close on October 20th and she hopes to host the course at Cheekwood. She hopes to have around 30-45 participants in the class. If there are any volunteers or locations feel free to send them to Amy. She has teamed up with Shana and teaching a Welcome Home TN series that teaches about general horticulture. Joan attended the first class and raved about it. Joan suggests the Nashville libraries as a potential location for the Master Gardener classes.

Cheryl Johnson

- Works with adults on the SNAP Ed side. In January will have two new partners and is closing with her current groups.

Hannah Decker

- Has been busy with 4-H with schools being back in session. This past weekend had a Fun Saturday event. She has two volunteers that are helping with in school clubs and another one to help. The honor club has doubled and been very successful. The clubs this year are evenly spread throughout the county and was able to partner with GATE teachers. No progress with the rabbits judging.

Shana DeLozier

- Has been helping the 4-H and will be taking over the 4-H Horse Club. She has been in discussions with surrounding counties on how they run their programs. She will be doing a poultry Fun Saturday in December. She is shadowing some school clubs and thinking of more agriculture clubs in 4-H. Had 13 graduates in the Farming Fundamentals course. She partnered with Sumner County and did a visit at Sylvia Garnier's Green-door Gourmet Farm. She was also able to see the bee's at Gigi's place. Mac asks for Tree diseases and Amy suggests arborists. Amy will take in photos and advise on what to do. Dan Harrell the community gardens agent will do site visits for the trees. Joan has resources on Chickens in urban areas.

Andy Lantz

- There is still not a date yet. Waiting on UT/TSU to sign off on the furniture package. Once signed it will be 8-10 weeks later. The number per cubicle is higher than what both universities see. Hoping to get approved soon. The process has been slow going through the UT business office. Metro is renting both locations at the moment and our office will be above the Metro Action Committee space. Looking like January will be the move date. Potentially adding a new Ag board member.

Ebone Colclough

- TNCEP is the Tennessee Nutrition Consumer Education Program. They will people on SNAP or eligible for SNAP. EFNEP is the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program is federally funded and only available for families with a child on home. She will be doing a nutrition program at a local middle school and the Baxter community. She has teamed up with Joan and Biars Davis with the Baxter community. She is partnering with Mercy chef and help upcoming pantries if they need help shelving. She has started a new program called "Bike and Hike" it will feature physical activity at Smith Springs Community. Was just approved to use a mobile food truck for the program. The story walk is now at Mill Ridge Community and needs funding for the posts to complete the story walk. Mac has a contact that might be able to help and did the markup with Elizabeth. She hopes to get a grant to cover the story walk completion.

Staff Updates:

- Alexis Trice will be moved into Mary Wakefield's old FCS position and has just started. Elizabeth Sanders FCS position is now available to apply for and hope to have in person interviews for December 4th and hope to start on January 1st. After position is filled then the Deputy Director position will be filled with Andy's move to County Director. The position will be moved in quickly. A TNCEP program Assistant and EFNEP youth assistant position will be available soon.

New Business:

- The next meeting date should be the first Monday on January 6th at 1:00 pm here at the UT/TSU Extension Davidson office. Whether it is at the current location or new one will be determined and notified before then.

Reggie Marshall made the motion to dismiss- Gigi Drumright seconds- Meeting dismissed.