



Board Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2009 Called to order at 6:40p

Board Members Present:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nathan Melson, Pres. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Lipsett, Past Pres. | <input type="checkbox"/> _____, Pres Elect |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paula Brennecke, Secy. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Howell, Treas. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faye Wedell, member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Brennecke, member | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Strickland, member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CJ Durbin-Higgins, member |

Guests: Ed & Vicki Samis – growers
 Cathy Cox, Bess Glasscock, Bobbie Defoor – Leonard Farmers Mkt.

Secretary's Report _____

Corrections: _____ None _____

Treasurer's Report _____

O/S check: \$ 80 to Heredia, CPA for annual tax report Balance in A/C: \$534.37

Committee Reports _____

Local Food Initiative – Neal invited the guests listed above.

The Samis' have 22 acres west of Bells where they want to grow - chemical free - for a farmers market. They're just getting started and shared the questions that are coming up for them: 1) What do they need to plant? Where can they get help in their learning process? Ideas were: Master Gardeners, Noble Foundation, Extension Agent, Randy Moore of soil & water conservation. Nathan suggested that the Texas Organic Farmers' Assn. might come do a program for us. Hel also told about the *Practical Farmers of Iowa* networking group that meets monthly (at a different farm each month) to share what's working for them. Neal will see if he can get some networking to happen among the growers he's talking with. Paula suggested the CORE website could have a 'subsite' linked to the main site for the association. It was also suggested that we have a directory of farmers markets in the Texoma area – similar to our Texoma-Grown Directory [Perhaps as part of that directory?].

The ladies from Leonard are just ready to open their farmers market of strictly 'locally grown'. They have already secured 11 vendors! Bobbie is very experienced in this from a market she helped with back east. They charge \$5/week (so that backyard growers can afford it) and will be regularly open Saturday a.m. and Tues p.m. However, the property owner has said any of them can come set up to sell on any day.

Good tips they shared: 1) Emphasize that anyone can sell – excess from backyard gardens, etc. 2) Suggest that growers find a 'niche' item that they grow well—that customers will count on finding at their booth.

Fundraising – Faye reported that Lake Fannin Lodge reserved for 9/5/09 for our “Hit the Trails at Lake Fannin” – Walk, Run, or Mountain Bike event. We need to go ahead and send \$75 to Lake Fannin. Nathan volunteered to contribute the \$75. (John will go ahead and write a CORE check and Nathan will reimburse CORE.) Lake Fannin will then send us the “Rental Agreement” to be completed. They have provided us their complete guidelines, and will have someone from their group there for the full day. In the guidelines we learned they don’t have a ‘full’ kitchen, so we will need to prepare our food at home then reheat it at the lodge.

Faye suggested we need to have an event planning committee to coordinate this event. After a short discussion, Faye moved (Don 2nd) that we invite Lisbeth Echeandia to chair it for us. Scott will ask her. Neal will search the membership database for members who might be willing to help.

Films & Forums – As we did not find a speaker for the June 25th event [“The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil” followed by an organizing meeting for local food possibilities], we decided it will be better, anyway, to spend the full ‘forum’ time in the two discussion groups: 1) Farmers Market – with Neal as the facilitator, and 2) Community Gardens – with Faye and Scott facilitating. Faye, Neal, and Nathan suggested resource people they will contact to attend.

Regarding refreshments: Faye will ask Elizabeth Bobbie to have the bank provide the coffee. Don will see if the iced tea in the jugs is still safe to use. (It hasn’t been refrigerated since the March meeting.) Bobbie Defoor had offered to bring refreshments tonight, so Neal will ask her if she would like to bring something for the 25th. We also still have three boxes of popcorn.

Continuing our previous decision to specifically invite local elected officials, we decided to limit that to Ruth Thomas and Corby Alexander. [No note on who will invite them.] Neal will invite those who completed the survey as appropriate. Paula will draft a letter to local churches to invite them – particularly around the community garden topic.

Proposed Bois d’Arc Reservoir – Nathan reported that several circumstances tell us that the reservoir is **not** a ‘done deal’: 1) The Army Corps of Eng. Are requiring a 3rd party EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) which could take 5-7 years. 2) TCEQ is not happy with the water district for not showing mitigation properties on the initial reservoir map they showed the public. 3) There are only nine years remaining for the ‘unique reservoir designation’. If construction isn’t started before time runs out, the legislature would need to start that process over again. 4) Eminent domain – new bill, if signed by Gov. Perry, will put price negotiating power in the hands of the seller. 5) Arsenic has been found in the creek water – likely from the old VPG.*

Contested case hearing: the lawyer hired by the Allens Chapel group says it should be in the next 6-9 mos.

Getting photos of the LA black bear, Ross needs a wildlife camera. Nathan will contact the Rysers to see if they will loan theirs to him.

*Side note: Scott questioned whether the piles of soil showing up at the new Powder Creek park are related to an arsenic clean-up effort rumored to be happening. Scott will call Glen Taylor to ask about this.

Green Section in annual Home & Garden Show – Nathan talked to Roger about adding a ‘green section’ to the show. Roger explained it would be problematic based on their guidelines. However, we could ask the Master Gardeners to work with us to have a ‘green garden’ show at the Armory on the day before. After discussion, we tabled the issue because our plate feels too full right now. [Actually, the show won’t be until next March – so we might reconsider at some point.]

Old Business

We decided that future board meetings will be scheduled for the 1st Thursday of every month.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00p

Respectfully submitted:



Paula D. Brennecke, Secretary