



Board Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2009 Called to order at 6:45p

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 type="checkbox"/> CJ Durbin-Higgins, member |

Guests: L.D. Clark from Sherman, Cathy Cox (Leonard Farmers Market)

Secretary's Report

Corrections: None

Treasurer's Report

Income: \$80.00 (from Nathan for Lake Fannin fee – September's fundraiser event)

Expenses \$195 (\$75-> Lake Fannin, \$40 contribution -> TX Conservation Alliance (TCA) along w/ membership app., \$80 to Heredia for tax filing)

Balance in A/C : \$419.37

Old Business

Local Food Initiative

Farmers Markets

Neal was unable to attend this meeting, but will likely be back in action within the month. Here is an excerpt from his last e-mail report:

I am still looking for Small Farmers and giving consideration to the smaller growers and gardeners who can be developed. I have talked more with the ag. extension agents and what they can do for the developing growers.

My focus and time (when available summer is very busy for me), is on identifying and compiling small Farmers, growers and gardeners. Most of my new information is coming from the Farmers Markets I do get a chance to visit and the growers I meet there.

Faye suggested we need to work toward a downtown Bonham market to bring folks together as community. She voiced concern that the livestock sale barn was too far out and that the \$20 charge is more than small growers and backyard growers could afford and still make enough profit to be worth their while. The Leonard market is charging only \$5. We need to continue to work with the city to get them behind the effort. Nathan reminded us that development grants are available for farmers markets.

Cathy reported on the Leonard Market: They are overwhelmed by the success of their market. Vendors are asked to sign that they grew the produce within a 60-mile radius of Leonard. There were twelve vendors the first week and nine the next. For their size town, three would be excellent. The vendors are selling out of produce, and buyers are coming even from Greenville. The feed store is not only providing space for the market behind their building, but paid half the printing bill for marketing. The store also plan to erect a 'pavilion' to shade the market area. It makes sense for them to support the farmers market in this way because they also benefit from the consumer traffic. The city of Leonard plans to put a link on their website for the market.

While discussing the hope of building community and encouraging citizens to shop locally with having a farmers market on the square, Nathan mentioned again that Michael Michaud is actively discussing 'Agri-tourism for Fannin County and surrounding area. Hopefully the restoration of the FC courthouse will proceed as planned and serve as another tourist draw in addition to being a focal point for the community.

Continued

Community Gardens

Nathan visited the sites being offered by Habitat for Humanity. There is a total of about two acres and all should be hooked up to city water. They will need work to make them useable. When he suggested the “Gardens for Humanity” concept to the Habitat representative, he was told they would likely be willing to discuss it. Nathan suggested to us that we should also encourage other communities in the county to start community gardens, and that we need to actively ‘market’ the idea or it will die. Faye agreed to call Pastor Barker at the church in south Bonham that had shown some interest in a community garden.

Food, Inc. – Nathan mentioned that this excellent film (we’re told) should be on DVD by Sep. or Oct.

Fundraising – “Hit the Trail”

We established a Task Force to pull this event together. L.D. Clark and Faye will be on the TF, and Scott will try again to contact someone we believe would make an excellent leader for the TF. L.D. will contact musicians he knows who might be willing to provide entertainment as a ‘benefit’.

Ideas brought up: Get some gift certificates for a drawing. Get a mountain bike donated for a raffle. Have some mountain bikes available for those who don’t have their own. (L.D. has some needing work. Don offered to repair them in return for one to keep.) Suggested charges for the event are \$12 for only food/entertainment; \$20 pkg. price to include the walk/run/bike portion and a T-shirt. (?????) Brochure/flyer need to be prepared soon to begin marketing. Market not only to local area but also to metroplex suburbs and Denton, targeting college kids. Also Focus on 1) photo op at the Lake and 2) the historic aspect – Lake Fannin and its lodge/cabins being an RRA (Rural Resettlement Administration project in the ‘30s. Consider advertising online to “meet up” groups. Contact John and Debra Gove (to help spread the word?).

New Business

Replacement of Inactive Board Members

Faye and Scott will contact our board members who have not been able to actively participate on the board. There are others who are able to be active and are interested in being on the board.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00p

Respectfully submitted:



Paula D. Brennecke, Secretary