

Harvest Farm at White Street Park

Minutes of the Managing Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2010 – 3:00 pm

Suwanee City Hall ~ 330 Town Center Avenue ~ Suwanee, GA 30024
Big Splash Room

1. Call to Order – Jessica called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. In attendance were Chantez Daya, Dan Foster, Jeanne Haynes, Boo Kirsch Hynes, Jessica Roth, Kim Thompson and Rosalie Tubre and Deborah Thornton. Sara Kleinfeld was absent. City Manager Marty Allen sat in on part of the meeting.
2. Adoption of Agenda - The agenda was adopted as presented.
3. Election of 2010 Officers – Jessica led the nomination discussion and voting process for the 2010 officers. The Harvest Farm Managing Board officers for 2010 are: Chair – Rosalie Tubre, Vice-Chair – Chantez Daya, Secretary – Jeannine Haynes, Treasurer – Deborah Thornton.
4. Selection of Meeting Dates – The Board selected the 1st Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. as its regular meeting time for 2010. All meetings will be held in the “Big Splash Room” at City Hall. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 5th, 2010.
5. Construction Update – Jessica provided the following updates on White Street Park: April 24 is the Harvest Farm Plot Building date. This will coincide with Suwanee’s Arbor Day activities. Work will start at 8:30 on all 76 plots. Planting can commence after the plots are constructed. Those who can’t attend should email Jessica. The trail, wooden bridges and parking area will be started soon. They may be done by April 24, depending on weather and other factors. The barn has been permitted and work will start shortly. It may not be done by April 24. Metal Products is providing a 2500 gallon cistern that will be painted with the Harvest Farm logo. There was discussion about the status of the butterfly garden, the orchard and when the dirt will be delivered by Southern Landscape.
6. Plot Refund Request – James Shinliver – Jessica explained that Mr. Shinliver will not be able to maintain the plot for personal reasons. He would like to return his plot and get a refund. The policy states that no refunds would be given. The Board decided that in this case a refund would be granted and the plot could go to the next person on the waiting list. This decision was based on the fact that it is very early in the project and no work had been done on any of the plots.

7. Educational Programs

- Recap of Square Foot Gardening class – Jessica reported that over 100 people attended the class. Feedback was very positive. There was a request for an on-site demonstration of some of the techniques that were discussed and to hold the class earlier next year to allow for an earlier start in the garden. Jessica and Rosalie will coordinate an email that will go out before the plot building date that will list the materials that are needed for square foot gardening. There was discussion about providing the necessary materials or putting together kits to sell. Rosalie will put together a list of the materials and may be willing to put together kits to sell; she will follow up with Jessica on this. There was discussion about providing bulk ground covers, such as mulch or pine straw. It was decided that it would be just as easy to let each gardener provide their own because of the small amount that would actually be needed for each plot.

 - Vince Dooley appearance – Jessica reported that Vince Dooley has confirmed his book signing for May 27 at Town Center. This will coincide with May’s “Toast at Town Center” night and should draw a good crowd. His appearance has the double benefit of promoting both Harvest Farm and Town Center. He is anticipated to give a lecture in the council chambers and sign books out on the street with the other festivities.

 - Future events – Possible future events were discussed, including a Harvest Party, cook-outs, a high end, elegant fund raiser picnic/dinner, and an end-of-the-season party.
8. Mission Statement – Jessica distributed previous submissions for the Harvest Farm Mission Statement and asked the Board to review them before the next meeting. The mission statement will serve as a reference for future decisions. Please send your preferred statement to Jessica by April 26. It was noted by Marty and Jessica that mission statements are most effective when they are short and to the point. It should be read and understood instantly. This is important because it will appear on official and promotional materials. Marty cited Suwanee’s statement (S.E.E. – Suwanee Exceeds Expectations) as an example.
9. Grand Opening – Kim provided a review of what promises to be a great event. The following action items were identified –

The board agreed to select a well known, and qualified organic gardener to speak after the ribbon cutting. One possible candidate is Allan Armitage at UGA. Chantez also suggested contacting Georgia Organics. Kim will follow up on this.

Deborah – contact Wal-Mart about donating paper supplies (Chantez will provide contact info for Wal-Mart)

Dan – supply grill

Jessica – ensure that recycle containers are in place

Kim – solicit involvement from local schools (North Gwinnett, Peachtree Ridge or Collins Hill) before confirming Dacula schools.

Kim – notify exhibitors that there will be no on site sales (Harvest Farm fund raisers may be OK – like Old Time Plow Club grits)

Jessica – check on liability issues with the Old Time Plow Club wagon rides

Jessica – provide easel with sign thanking sponsors

Everyone – save plastic or styrofoam egg cartons for Rosalie’s ladybug project

10. Other – Marty thanked the Founders Committee for all of their good work and noted that they have generated a great deal of excitement about the garden. The garden is benefiting everyone in the community even if they are not direct users of the park. He encouraged the Board to develop a good mission statement and stay focused on it. While it is hard to say “no” to all of the neat projects that we could take on it is very important that we do a few high ranking things “exceptionally well” rather than a lot of things half way. Keep a list of smaller projects that can be delegated to Eagle Scouts or church groups. He explained the philosophy that has helped Suwanee to become an award winning community – have FUN, be inclusive, stay focused on your mission and do things better than everyone else (aka Regional Leadership).

Rosalie discussed Dahlys Hamilton’s request to have the Board participate in her networking event. It was decided that we would not participate this year because we are focused on getting the garden up and running in its first season and time is very limited.

Rosalie thanked Boo for all of her time and effort in distributing the seeds.

Jessica will remain the administrator of the Facebook page. Only the administrator can send a news feed. Please send your items to her.

A \$50,000 grant from Pepsi for a tree house project was discussed. Rosalie will reapply next month. The application process is password protected to prevent multiple applications for the same project.

Please send agenda items for the next meeting to Jessica by April 26.

11. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 4:45.

