

Harvest Farm at White Street Park

Minutes of the Managing Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2010 – 4:00 pm

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

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Tubre at 4:00. In attendance were Vice Chair Daya, Dan Foster, Sara Kleinfeld, Jessica Roth, Deborah Thornton and Rosalie Tubre. Jeanne Haynes joined the meeting at 4:10. Kim Thomson joined the meeting at 4:20. City Manager Marty Allen attended a portion of the meeting. Boo Kirsch Hynes was absent.
2. Approval of May 5, 2010 minutes – Sara motioned to approve the minutes; Jessica seconded. The minutes were approved 6-0 as presented.
3. Construction Update - Jessica reported that the contractors will be finished with most work around the garden next week and the gardeners can come again during weekdays. She also asked the Board if they were interested in planting and maintaining the common area between the parking lot and the garden. Rosalie moved to set aside an area to plant an ornamental annual and perennial garden. Sara seconded the motion for discussion. It was agreed that the planting should be low enough at maturity so that the view of the garden would not be obstructed. Donations of plants will be needed. The area will be turned over for planting in the very near future. The area can be stabilized with pine straw until the Board is ready to plant. The motion passed 7 - 0.

Jessica distributed the White Street Park Rules, the draft Harvest Farm Rules, and a map to be posted on White Street Park kiosk. She asked the Board to review the draft Harvest Farm Rules and let her know if you have any comments by Monday, June 7.

There was discussion about if an area to compost will be available. A pile and sign has randomly appeared. The Board is concerned that the pile is unsightly and located in a patch of poison ivy and sumac. This will be addressed in the next Harvest Farm Update.

Rosalie presented photos and plans for a cupola and a hayloft door for the Harvest Farm barn. The cost for the door is \$80 and the cost for the cupola is \$950. The Board expressed concerns about cost, grounding and maintenance. We decided that this should go on the project list for consideration in the future. The Board discussed how to prioritize projects and how to get buy in from other gardeners. There was discussion about staying focused on our main projects and objectives. Jessica suggested that projects like the cupola could be placed on a list, similar to the city's Short Term Work Plan, or assigned to a committee. Dan

mentioned that Eagle Scouts like projects like this. Other projects on the list could include bat boxes and lockers.

4. Board Code of Conduct - Marty Allen presented the Code of Conduct used by the City Council. It has enabled council members to stay focused on the overall, long range good of the city while allowing for the disagreement and debate that is a healthy part of the decision process. The council agrees to lay aside their differences and present a united front once a matter has been voted on. This moves initiatives forward and builds a culture of trust. The Board agreed that it would like to adopt a Code of Conduct that is similar to the code used by the City Council. Please review and bring your ideas or changes to the July 7, 2010 meeting.

5. Gardener Interaction/Involvement

- Frequency of communications – Effective communication will be important to the success of the garden. The Board discussed the types and frequency of communication that should take place with the gardeners and the community at large. It was decided that Harvest Farm Updates and other messages sent to the “global” list of gardeners should be sent by Rosalie. She will coordinate all communication with Jessica. Updates should go out at least once per month. It might be necessary to send updates twice a month, especially during the active seasons. The first Update will go out early during the week of June 7. It will include notices about the new committees that are forming, garden plot liaisons, garden rules and etiquette (supervise children, no dogs, don’t water other plots, compost, etc), fertilizer tips and other items. It will be sent with a blank blind copy to avoid an onslaught of emails from “reply to all”.

The Facebook page has great information and gardeners should be encouraged to use it. A gardener’s blog linked to the Facebook page could be useful as well. Sara explained that a blog could be organized by a “calendar” so that the threads are easier to follow. There was discussion about bulletin boards in the barn. It was agreed that a “Communications Committee” would present a recommendation for communication to the Board.

- Plot liaisons – Jessica distributed a list of plot assignments. Each Board Member should introduce themselves to their assigned plot holders and let them know that they are a point of contact for questions and information. Jessica will provide contact information for the plot holders. Liaison information will appear in the next Harvest Farm Update

- Volunteer Committees – The committees will provide a way to get gardeners involved, organize activities and complete projects. The committee assignments will be discussed at the next meeting.
6. Values Statement – Jessica distributed the suggestions that had been submitted for a Values Statement. Chantez made a motion, seconded by Dan, to adopt Kim’s suggestion with the following changes: Access – The garden will provide access to all “ethnic, religious and economical backgrounds” was changed to “all members of the community”. “Vested in community enrichment - ” was changed to “Valuable to the community - ”. The motion passed 8 – 0.
 7. Animals/Chicken Coop Construction - Dan will be responsible for the construction of the chicken coop. He will present a proposal that includes detailed plans, materials and colors to the Board for approval. It may be possible to get materials donated or to repurpose materials from barns on property that was recently purchased by the city. Dan will also be the liaison between the Board and City Council and Andrew Wordes. Andrew will donate the chicks and has agreed to provide temporary shelter for the chicks for 3 months. The Animal Care Committee will be responsible for coordinating the volunteer care takers.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning of Harvest Farm from R-100 to R-140. This rezoning will allow for chickens and other livestock. The Board and the City will discuss roosters and goats at a later time. City Council will hold a public hearing and vote on this on June 22.

8. Food Bank Plot – It appears that the plot has been over-watered. Sarah and the Charitable Giving Committee will coordinate a sign-up sheet for watering. This will be mentioned in the next Harvest Farm Update.
9. Grand Opening – Jessica reported that the asphalt and concrete trails and grassed areas may not be finished by June 19. Kim reported that we are ready with the exception of Farmer D who hasn’t been reached for confirmation. We may need a back up if she can’t reach him soon. Please let her know if you any ideas or contacts. Kim asked for ideas for questions (not related to the booths) for the scavenger hunt. She requested that the non-grassed or newly grassed areas be roped off and that the new Mission and Values Statement be posted. A proposed pie tin project was put on hold. Dan, Deborah and Jeanne will be out of town on June 19.
10. ACGA Conference – This conference was attended by several members of the Founders Committee in 2009. This year it will be held in Atlanta on August 5 – 9 at the Loudermilk Center. Jessica has been asked to speak on community gardening as it relates to childhood

obesity. Rosalie will contact neighboring community gardens to see if we can entice the conference attendees to visit. Kim is on the planning committee. She said that the agenda is flexible and will promote a site visit to our garden. She will ask that Harvest Farm be placed on their official map.

11. Other - Many items not directly related to an agenda item were discussed during the meeting. Marty pointed out that the cistern can be viewed on Facebook. Garden art was discussed. The Social Committee may host local artists or art associations in the garden to promote contributions of “garden art” at some time in the future. Several Board members reported conversations with other gardeners about dogs or unsupervised children. We should always introduce ourselves as Board Members and ask that the rules be followed. Jeanne asked if it would be appropriate to use the gardener distribution list to invite everyone to a Fourth of July cook-out. Rosalie continues to apply for the Pepsi Challenge Grant. She is in touch with the representative on the website. Gardening problems and tips, too numerous to be mentioned here, were discussed.

12. Adjournment – Chairwoman Tubre adjourned the meeting at 6:30.

