

MINUTES
Friends of Agriculture
January 9, 2023

Quorum: Pam Blakeney, Jeff Hawkins, David Jackson, Sheila Jennings, Glenn Robinson, Laura Robinson, Janet Tinney

Missing: Sue Cuzzort and Doug Singleton

Other Attendees: Dusty Cole, Chris Jones, Brantly Mason

Welcome. Glenn R opened with a prayer.

Minutes – Laura R – Approved as Written

FUNDRAISING: Glenn R has made contact with all potential donors recommended by the board. He urged EVERYONE to use their contacts to find donors. Laura will mail the current pamphlet and generic letter for all to use in fundraising.

- **White Hawk.** Glenn R & Jeff H received a promise of a donation. Former Governor Roy Barnes encouraged us to seek government funding.
- **SAM.gov.** Glenn R reported that he had signed up with SAM.gov which is required to apply for federal grants. He is waiting for full access, a CAGE code and additional password(s) for at least one board member. He looks to Pam B and Sheila J for help since they have experience with the system. There is also a requirement for an annual update once initiated. The next step is to contact the Appalachian Regional Agency which services Georgia, to see if there are any grants for current needs. Pam B warned that we need to be careful on timing in that some federal grants cannot be awarded if certain milestones such as start of construction are already past.
- **Atrium – Jan 11, 3:00pm.** Glenn R, Jeff H and Laura R will be meeting with Dan Blevins and others in Rome to seek funding from their newly established foundation.
- **TipTop – after Jan 15.** Dusty C set up a meeting with Mr Terry Bruce. Glenn R was asked to call back after January 15 to set up a meeting with TipTop.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Request for Proposal.** Release of the RFP was tabled following discussions as detailed below:

Laura R proposed that we need to set a specific dollar amount on hand before releasing the RFP and recommended \$250,000. Glenn R noted that it was stipulated that the bid was contingent on having the funds. Pam B pointed out that it could be illegal to start the process without funds to cover the effort. Sheila J suggested we split the difference. The proposal was made by Sheila J to *require that we have a minimum of \$100,000 in the bank before we release the RFP, then stipulate that we will pay as funds become available should the cost exceed \$100,000.* This was seconded by Pam B and **APPROVED** unanimously. The following addition will be made to the RFP to ensure we know we can cover the work as it is completed:

“The project will be scheduled as funds become available. We request a monthly statement from the contractor, the first due within six months of contract award or at the point when expenses reach \$95,000 to ensure that funds are available. Work on this RFP shall not exceed available funds held by Friends of Agriculture.”

Once we have raised a minimum of \$100,000 we will be able to complete the next steps of setting up a Bid Committee of FIVE Board Members. We also will need to (1) Vote on Final RFP & Release Date; (2) Dates for the Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting; (3) Date & Location of Opening of the Bids; (4) Date(s) & Location of Bidder Presentations; (5) Date, Location & Methodology of the Bid Review.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Soil Samples.** Glenn R let the board know that a soil sample will be taken at the site – a requirement for construction – on Wednesday, 11 February. A vote is needed to approve the \$500 cost of the Soil Sampling and Report. **APPROVED.**
- **Golf Tournament.** It was proposed by Dusty C that we hold a golf tournament as a fund raiser. We should invite high profile businesspeople, politicians and local celebrities such as Nick Chubb. Points of contact who have experience in this area will be asked to help us organize and advise us in costs, fees, facilities, manpower required and more. Mike Weatherton (CHS), Glenn Campbell, Rocky Tillery and Michael Fergueson were named as contacts. Glenn R offered to start the ball rolling by talking to Scotty Tillery later in the week.
- **Grant Committee.** Laura R asked if anyone would be willing to meet to discuss the Ball Grant later in the week. Pam B, Janet T and Sheila J volunteered to meet on January 19, 1:00pm at the Nutrition office.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- **New Board Members.** It was suggested we consider new members. Dusty Cole was recommended. Pam B was going to talk to a friend who is a retire CFO and currently runs the Polk County Historical Association.

Treasurers Report – Janet T reported the balance at Century Bank: **\$25,046.04**

Laura R reported the balance at Edward Jones: **2,922.89**

Total: \$27,968.93

APPROVED without balance sheet. Laura R & Janet T will meet later in the month to improve reporting data.

Closing Remarks. Glenn R encouraged all to spread the word and fundraise.

Next Meeting: February 6, 7:30am at the Nutrition Office.

Adjourn

Glenn K Robinson, President