

MINUTES
Friends of Agriculture
August 22, 2022

Establish Quorum: Pam Blakeney, Sue Cuzzort, Glenn Robinson, Laura Robinson, & Doug Singleton.
Missing: David Jackson & Janet Tinney. Visitors: Sheila Jennings & Jeff Hawkins

Introduction. Glenn R introduced Sheila Jennings, the new Polk County School Nutritionist. This was followed by a VOTE for her to join board in place of Linda Holland who moved from the area. **APPROVED** unanimously.

Past Minutes. Laura R presented past minutes that had not been approved in earlier meetings.

- Minutes from January 5 & March 17, 2022 were both **APPROVED** unanimously.
- Laura R was voted in as Secretary for 1 year in place of Linda Holland. **APPROVED** unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Zoning Approval & Review of Final Plan.** Laura R told the Board that the Polk County Zoning Committee met on June 16, 2022 and unanimously approved the plan as presented designating the 5-acres on Sardis Road for the Agriculture Education & Natural Resource Center as Agriculture Special Use (A1). The main questions they asked was regarding parking availability and water pointing out that the current water line is only 2” in diameter.

The zoning board recommendation to approve the plan went before the Polk County Commissioners on July 11. Ray Carter suggested it be zoned Commercial mentioning that the county had a plan for the Hwy 278 corridor. Laura R pointed out that the land was under an agricultural land-trust and it could not be made Commercial under that contract. Carolyn Elliot of the zoning board pointed out that there were three housing lots between the Ag Center site and the highway. On July 12, 2022 the Polk County Commission approved the request for zoning the as Agriculture Special Use (A1).

NEW BUSINESS

- **Meeting Potential Donor, September 14.** [Details removed from online minutes at potential donors request to remain anonymous.
- **Fundraising.** Glenn R asked that everyone on the Board provide contact information for companies or individuals and then contact them to set up a meeting.
- **Milestone Plan.** Laura R presented a milestone plan based on fundraising amount. Her research indicated a potential cost to build of at least \$6.1 million. Because this is a very preliminary plan, she will update as actual data becomes available. We discussed the training needed for the Cannery Manager. Jeff H said the person would need to pass a one-week class offered by UGA. The attached current plan was **APPROVED** unanimously.

- **Marketing Push.** Laura R proposed a marketing push culminating in a community “shovel event”. She will join the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of Friends of Agriculture to help promote it. During the meeting, Laura outlined the plan: The citizens of Polk and surrounding counties will be invited to “see” the plan as it will be built by outlining the entire building on the grounds using “football field chalk”. Demonstrations, information and food will be provided. A recommendation was made to provide a “give-away” to help people remember us. We also discussed the need to bring in ALL of our supporters including the FFA teachers. Laura will develop a plan and promotions.

We agreed to hold it on **OCTOBER 22** to allow time for promoting.

NOTE: While no rain date was chosen, October 29 appeared to be good and could be considered as a back-up.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- We discussed other fundraising options such as selling BRICKS at different levels for both inside and outside.
- Other marketing ideas such as a booth at the fair scheduled Sept 6-11 and giveaways for the shovel ceremony in addition to the information pamphlets.
- Laura R agreed to post the giving levels on the website.
- Board elections: Per the bylaws, we need to hold elections October 2023 with the officers starting their terms on January 2024.
- Glenn R nominated Jeff Hawkins for board membership. We agreed to vote via email.

Treasurers Report. Laura provided the most recent balances and reminded all that the brokerage account had taken a hit from the recent stock market downturn though those funds had been used to pay Brian Rhindt for the final drawings. As of August 19 we had a total of **\$5680.56** with \$3003.06 at Edward Jones and \$2677.50 with Century Bank.

NEXT MEETING: Monday October 3, 7:30am @ Polk Farm Bureau Conference Room. We will be inviting all of the FFA teachers as advisors.

Adjourn

[Signed copy on record]

Glenn K Robinson, President