

Educational Prosperity Initiative

September 4, 2014

10:00 AM

Fairmont Community Center

Call to Order- Jewel Walker-Harps

Present- Theo Harris, Ray Lightner, Kelly Leger, Dwayne Smith, Chad Jacobs, John Whitner, Wilbur Hightower, Eddie Bogan, Sharon Williams, Afiya King, Grady Caldwell, Jessica Layfield, Modester Lewis, Jillian Rafter, Harry Madix, Shelia Hall, Robert Dull, Anissa Freeman, Margaret W. Bentley, Ellen Baush, Josh Hinson, Bruce Ballard, Patty Beckham, Jewel Williams, Eloise Harps, Dewey Haley, Aveory Allen, Carmen Caldwell, Fannie Delaney, and Regina Abbott. (30)

Prayer- Pastor Grady Caldwell

Pledge- John Whitner

Minutes- Motion by Theo Harris and seconded by Grady Caldwell to approve the May 1 and June 6, 2014. Unanimous vote. Motion by Theo Harris and seconded by Donna Parks to approve the August 7, 2014 minutes. Unanimous vote.

Parents Who Host Lose the Most- Afiya King, The Council on Alcohol and Drugs, presented on the impact of underage drinking and the practice of parents hosting parties where alcohol is provided to teens. This practice has become socially acceptable with adults mistakenly believing they are offering a safe alternative for teens. Ms. King administered a pre and post survey to measure the change in knowledge and/or attitude of those in attendance. She reviewed the legal implications of serving underage teens as well as the impact on brain development and other physical, mental and social development. For more information about the Stop Alcohol Under 21 campaign and what you can do, visit www.stopalcoholunder21.com. The ultimate goal is to get a social host ordinance passed by local communities.

Meriwether Redevelopment Research Project- The UGA led research has started with interviews of former residents of Meriwether Homes. The purpose of the project is to study the impact of relocation of public housing residents. Residents of Fairmont Homes will be interviewed and used as a control group to compare the former Meriwether Homes residents. Several EPI members have volunteered as interviewers for UGA, Theo Harris, Modester Lewis, Grady Caldwell.

Community Garden- Nine fall gardeners signed up, of which two are new; Halloween in the Garden will be repeated this year; Junior Master Gardener Program will be provided to Kids in Action; garden mention in UGA Community Garden blog.

Kids in Action Moore Elementary Afterschool Program- scheduled to start on September 8 with 25 students; partnering with Rising Star Church

Mentoring- Five mentors have confirmed they will not return, replacements trained; volunteer training next week from 12-2 pm at central office; mentors are asked to commit to one hour per week; participating schools are Anne Street, Atkinson, Moore, Kennedy Road Middle, Griffin and Spalding High, and A.Z. Kelsey Academy; age and race are diverse, 75% are female; need more male mentors

Backpack Food for Kids- The program starts this week in four schools with a goal of 250 students this year; UGA's Impact Series event for August highlighted child hunger and featured a study of inadequate nutrition of students at East Griffin Elementary School by UGA in the 40's. Several donations followed the program.

Fairmont Heritage Park & Historical District- GHA presented national Award of Excellence; executing Memoranda of Agreement to continue programs; adding Hopeville Boys Center to help seniors and public housing residents with gardening; boarded-up houses on Lincoln Road will be demolished pending city approval; the property will be donated to Atkinson Elementary; GHA contacted by other counties re: EPI and may want to interview some of the EPI members; Bob will present the Fairmont Historical Redevelopment Plan and Rosenwald School at the Spalding Collaborative meeting on Wednesday, September 10 at 9 am in the training room of the Spalding County Health Department.

Career & College Prep Academy- Finalizing grant application for submittal early next month; need a lot of support

Adult Education / GED- Classes held on Tuesday and Thursday from 9-12; approximately 10 students; on break now

Resident Council- Filed Articles of Incorporation with Secretary of State's Office; entered into agreement with Griffin Housing Authority

Youth Committee- More activities for children are needed, especially for pre-school children, i.e. a children's hour at Fairmont Community Center or Fairmont Homes where young children are read to, arts and crafts, etc.; volunteer needed to lead such a program

Historical Committee- John Cruickshank is ready to get started interviewing people with stories of Fairmont Vocational High School

Introductions / Closing Comments- Making Griffin Spalding Better Together Community Conference is scheduled for November; speakers include Ed Jennings, Southeastern Regional Director of HUD, and Ricky Clarke, Jr.

Next Meeting- September 4 at 10 am at Fairmont Community Center.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted:


Regina Abbott, Consultant

Approved:


Jewel Walker-Harps, Chair