

Educational Prosperity Initiative

February 5, 2015

10:00 AM

Fairmont Community Center

**Call to Order-** Jewel Walker-Harps

**Present-** Theo Harris, Eula Redding, Shirley Caldwell, Steve Heaton, Eddie Bogan, Shelia Hall, Anissa Freeman, Dick Brooks, Ray Lightner, Jim Small, Mamie Smith, Dewey Haley, John Whitner, Donna Parks, Gloria Brown, Doris Christopher, Shirley Gardner, Morris Leeks, Harvey Booker, Clyde Forbes, Curtis Jones, Jim Smith, Aveory Allen, Eloise Harps, Jillian Rafter, Linda Davis, Dianne Blaine, John Cruickshank, Hazel Parks, Chad Jacobs, Kelly Leger, Ellen Bauske, and Jewel Walker-Harps. (33)

**Prayer-** Pastor

**Pledge-** Aveory Allen

**Minutes-** Deferred to March meeting

**Regional College Career Academy-** Griffin Spalding County School System Assistant Superintendent Jim Smith reviewed the E-SPLOST and answered questions. Since 1997, all construction has been supported by E-SPLOST. The upcoming vote is March 17<sup>th</sup>. The one cent sales tax is a continuation of an existing tax, not a new tax.

Dr. Curtis Jones made additional comments about bus/transportation, improvements being made and more accountability for the school system.

**Meriwether Redevelopment Research Project-** No report

**Young Scholars-** registration for summer 2015 has begun

**Kids in Action Afterschool-** Wants to expand Junior master gardener program at Moore Elementary, UGA; five students involved in hands-on science project; 25 students enrolled in afterschool program; teachers and parents working hard; students enjoying.

**Hopeville Boys Center-** Afterschool for 40 males at A.Z. Kelsey Academy; Police Department gave presentation on gangs last week.

**Community Garden-** Board meeting last week; set goals; not a lot of work in garden because of wold weather; will plant things in about a month for early Spring.

**Mentoring-** Added Jackson Road Elementary (one volunteer) and Cowan Road Middle School (two volunteers); volunteer training next week

**No report from the following:** Backpack Food for Kids, Adult Education / GED, Resident Council, Youth Committee

**Historical Committee-** The city and county have covered the old Fairmont High buildings to halt further damage to the historical structures.

**Introductions / Closing Comments-** Meriwether Homes project is moving along; county cut trees. Mrs. Walker-Harps announced the fulfillment of a long time vision to preserve the rich history of the Fairmont neighborhood prior to the 1960's. UGA Athens staff visited with local representatives and UGA Griffin staff to discuss helping with the process. Exciting things are coming. John Whitner, President of the Fairmont Alumni Association, pledged support of the Oral History Project. Stories will be pulled from primary sources as much as possible or secondary sources when necessary and appropriate. Funds are needed to help with the project.

Devoted EPI member Wilbur Hightower passed away.

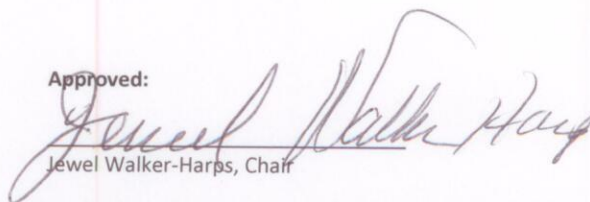
**Next Meeting-** March 5 at 10am at Fairmont Community Center.

**Meeting adjourned**

**Respectfully submitted:**

  
Regina Abbott, Consultant

**Approved:**

  
Jewel Walker-Harps, Chair