

Educational Prosperity Initiative
May 7, 2015
Minutes

The Educational Prosperity meeting was called to order by Jewel Walker-Harps who stressed the need to always keep in mind that we have a mission.

Prayer was given by Pastor Grady Caldwell, followed by the pledge to the flag led by John Whitner.

The minutes were silently read and a motion to adopt was made by Pastor Grady Caldwell and seconded by Hazel Parks. The minutes were adopted as read.

The first presentation was made by Cynthia Tidwell from the Spalding County Health Department. She gave a well received, energized report on the services provided by the Spalding County Health Department.

These services included among others: STD treatment, June 27, HIV testing, screening within schools, TB testing, provide vital records (birth and death certificates), DOT physicals, bio-terror team(safety), cancer screenings for uninsured persons, evaluates the growth and development and other health services of children ages 5 and under, environmental health programs, evaluates food service facilities, physical exams for children in sports and provide doctor once a month for such service, provide family planning education and needs, checks children for head lice, hearing and vision impairment, immunizations, provides lab tests at reduced cost, nutrition services and other allowable requests.

The second presentation was given by Dawn Walker, Quality Director, and accreditation Coordinator of District 4 Health Services. Dawn clearly explained the need and value of the surveys which we were asked to complete and to take into our communities. She explained that accreditation was important and assured the quality and quantity of services which were being provided. Documentation must be provided to support claims which are made. An example of this documentation would be our sign-in sheets. Adequate documentation is hard to get. Our Health Department is working hard to gather information from all residents. The numbers or deficiencies for this community are going down. Spalding is ranked 141 out of 159 counties in 2014 and in 2015 135 of 159 counties. Why? Highlighted were: increase in exercise opportunities, improvement in low birth rates, and an increase in graduation numbers. More than 500 surveys have been received; however, the goal is at least 1,000. The challenge now is to get included data from certain sub groups. Adult obesity and critical illnesses must be addressed. The body was asked to utilize social media. There is a valuable resource guide housed at the University of Georgia, Griffin Campus.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

UGA—Jeff Jordan reported on the research project that he represents UGA on a job for the Griffin Housing Authority to follow-up and evaluate the activities of the residents who moved or relocated from Meriwether Homes. He also reported that plans for Kids University and the Young Scholars program were on target for this summer.

Jewel Walker-Harps stated that the Griffin Branch NAACP had submitted a resolution to the National body requesting that it lobby appropriate congressional leaders for funds for the YSP.

According to Sheila Hall and Jeff Jordan, reporting in the absence of Patty Beckham and Ellen Bauske, that the Jr Master Gardeners from Moore Elementary School Were active and getting ready for spring fling.

KIDS in ACTION.. Dr. Gloria Brown reported that the 25 participants were active and that two parents had become volunteers to work in program.

No report due to absentees from School Based Mentoring Program, Hopeville Boys Center, Backpack Food for Kids, and the GED Program—still active.

FAIRMONT HERITAGE PARK AND HISTORICAL DISTRICT

Parks and Recreation Dept. will have summer food programs and operate camps at Ambucs, Fairmont and City Park at a fee of \$30.00 per child. (The food is free for all children) The Fairmont Alumni Association will serve on Saturdays only and provide a bag lunch for Sunday at the VFW Post. An invitation was extended to others who had summer programs to come and present, however, no one came.

Application was made to the Neighborhood Summit for an education grant which was to allow coordination, including transportation, for the inner city children who were not able to get in other programs to have access to the Flint River Public Library summer program.

Jewel Walker-Harps mentioned an attempt to bring in a motivational speaker for an invited group of children before the beginning of school. Perhaps this could help Clyde Forbes boys. Chief Heaton offered and volunteered the help of the Police Department. A committee will be formed to work out idea and formulate plans.

A request was made to submit names of persons capable of during outdoor work in building. The contractor for Meriwether Homes will hire local persons.

Oral History Project is continuing to take form. There will be an attempt to bring back a former pastor from earlier times to kick off the project with an old fashioned "Camp Meeting". This will be investigated.

Summer activities include: Movie in the Park - May 8, 2015, (free Disney movie) June 6, June Jam in the new green space park on Solomon St. between 5th and 6th Streets. Kenda Woodard was present to promote the "Brick Project" fund raising project for the new green space area. Bricks consisting of 3 lines would cost \$100.00, VIP bricks would cost \$125.00. More information will be forthcoming. The GHA will also have planned children's activities.

Comments:

The following persons received survey forms:

Jimmy Jones—Faith United Methodist Church
Hazel Parks----Fairmont
Pastor Grady Caldwell—New Mercy
Wayne Lamar---Mt. Zion
Fred Allen—Antioch
Sheila Hall---GHA
Annette Touchstone---Trinity CME
Linda Davis---Eighth Street Church
John Whitner---Shoal Creek Church

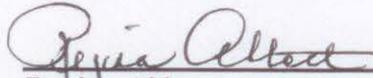
The following persons were to serve as contact persons on call when a need to gather in full force:

John Whitner
Wayne Lamar
Jimmy Jones
Hazel Parks

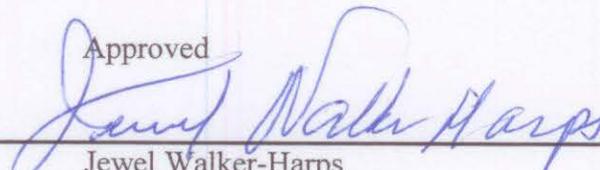
A special thanks to Donna Parks for recording the minutes in the absence of Regina Abbott.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Respectively Submitted


Regina Abbott

Approved


Jewel Walker-Harps