

Educational Prosperity Initiative

June 3, 2015 10:00 AM

Fairmont Community Center

Call to Order- Jewel Walker-Harps

Present- Regina Abbott, Patty Beckham, Linda Davis, Fannie Delaney, David Dodd, Josephine Driver, Robert Dull, Anissa Freeman, Sheila Hall, Jimmy Jones, Jeff Jordan, Wayne Lamar, Jamie Mann, Hazel Parks, Jo Anne Phinazee, Jillian Rafter, Jewel Walker-Harps, Hazel White, and Glen Williams. (18)

Prayer- David Dodd / **Pledge-** Jewel Walker-Harps

Minutes- Motion by Shelia Hall to approve May 7, 2015 minutes; second by Linda Davis; unanimous vote.

Non-traditional College Preparatory School- Headmistress Jamie Mann, accompanied by staff members Hazel Parks and Ester White presented on New Horizons New Directions. In 2009, Ms. Mann left a position at Spalding High School to open a learning center to close the achievement gap by offering the only missing component in the public school system – personalized, individualized student support. Soon, she was prompted to establish a full functioning school. The school was fully accredited non-traditional college prep academy in 2011. The first two students are now college seniors. More than 300 students have graduated high school earning a diploma and going on to college, technical college or the military with a 95% success rate. Flynt River Baptist Association purchased the former West Griffin Elementary/RESA Academy building on Experiment Street and will house New Horizons New Directions there beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Classes will be expanded to cover grades K-12 using the same model providing an educational option for those unable to master the traditional classroom. The more educational options for special needs children, the more the community thrives. The school will have a media center and school nurse. A Community Scholarship Fund helps to offset the cost. The average cost per student is \$450 per month. The average student pays approximately \$225 per month. The Georgia Tax Credit Scholarship provides a full tax credit for donations of \$1,000 or greater. The SB10 scholarship provides full tuition. Fifteen students are graduating tonight.

Summer Programs- Impact Racing needs \$2,800 to send Troup 200 to Boy Scouts summer camp; Spalding County Commissioners have funded Parks and Recreation for extended hours

Summer Food Program- Parks & Recreation is partnering with A. D. Smith Community Development to serve their three sites, City Park, Fairmont Park, and AMBUCS Park. Fairmont Alumni Association is providing meals on Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer.

UGA Programs/Research Project- Young scholars program is filled to capacity; two students from Fairmont Homes will travel abroad this summer. Kids University is providing 100% of the youth development activities as contracted. Zero Robotics will be housed on the campus of UGA this summer to allow greater access to computers and a robust program of activities.

Mentoring- The school year finished with 47 active volunteer mentors; need volunteers to train during the summer

Community Garden- Diverse group of children and adults participating in programs; 27 children and 25 adults. Four well-behaved unsupervised children from Fairmont Homes participated in the children's programs; families with approximately 10 children from David's program participated; the Moore Elementary Junior Master Gardeners, including one student from Fairmont Homes, will attend 4-H summer camp. Peach State Health Plan is a potential sponsor for things like a drip irrigation system for the garden.

Heritage Park- Appreciation expressed for Parks and Recreation and the Spalding County Commissioners placing Rosenwald on the SPLOST; members encouraged to support the placement at the June 9 SPLOST meeting of the County Commissioners

No report from the following: Backpack Food for Kids, Resident Council, Hopeville Boys Center, Youth Committee, Meriwether Redevelopment Research Project, Kids in Action, Adult Literacy/GED

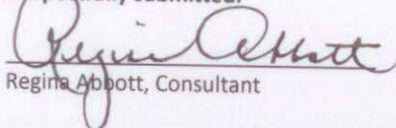
Historical Committee- Kick-off delayed pending outcome of decisions by UGA within the next few weeks.

Introductions / Closing Comments- HUD Fatherhood Initiative, "Dad's Get in the Game," planned for June for Saturday June 27 at Fairmont Community Gym from 10am-1pm; guest speaker Nick Davis, head coach of the Spalding High School football team. Archway Partnership held two Listening Sessions on June 2 to gather input from the community. The Council on Aging Senior Center is merging with the Spalding Senior Center.

Next Meeting- August 6 at 10am at Fairmont Community Center.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted:


Regina Abbott, Consultant

Approved:


Jewel Walker-Harps, Chair