

Powhatan Extension Leadership Council (ELC)

Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2017

Meeting held in the Powhatan Village Building Downstairs Conference Room

Members present: Johns Bailey, Tony Hackenberg, Cathy Howland, Peggy Martin, Winfred Taylor, Rachel Grosse, Bonnie Garringer, Ruby Turner, Gail Timberlake and Allison Walters.

Reading of the Minutes: Meeting minutes were approved with no changes or additions. Allison will continue to email the meeting minutes to members within 30 days of meeting. It was agreed as a cost saving measure to no longer mail a reminder postcard, only send an email reminder.

Welcome New Member: Gail Timberlake, new Board of Supervisor appointed ELC member from District 2.

ELC Treasurer's Report: Winfred Taylor reported that there was a beginning checking balance of \$1,904.91 as of December 1, 2016. This was a small difference of an additional .40 from the December treasurer's report due to estimated interest calculated for October and November being slightly off. Interest received during this quarter totaled .71. There were no deposits and one disbursement this quarter totaling \$150.00 to the Powhatan Volunteer Rescue Squad. The new balance is now \$1,756.02.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: Cathy Howland, Rachel Grosse, and Winfred Taylor attended the Board of Supervisors meeting where the VCE budget was discussed. The office asked for a \$2,225.00 increase in the budget to cover staff increases. No other increases in the budget were made from the previous year. Cathy suggested that if ELC members come into contact with board members encourage them to keep line items intact. March 27 is the last date any changes can be made to the tax rate and budget. The final meeting for the budget is April 17.

BOS Dinner: Cathy Howland opened discussion about dinner and thought that it went well. She suggested possibly showing the video again at a BOS meeting after the new county administrator is hired. Some of the members commented that they enjoyed the time to sit and relax. Tony Hackenburg suggested making this an annual ELC event.

Powhatan Endowment: Rachel Grosse opened discussions up about an endowment. The purpose of this would be to help expand our reach and impact for extension. The minimum to start the endowment would be \$25,000 raised over several years. Rachel suggested combining fundraising for an endowment and the National Ag Conference, and would like to suggest making the endowment in honor of Johns Bailey. This could be used as a good talking point and connection to people in the community for donations; Johns was also a member of the Ag Association, which is

holding their annual conference in Virginia Beach this year. Each office has pledged to raise money to help support it.

Rachel suggested approaching Land & Coates about partnering with the ELC for an RTV raffle, which would last 6 months or possibly longer. (May – Memorial Day to Labor Day was suggested as a timeframe) Raffle tickets could be sold for \$25 each.

A motion was made by Tony Hackenburg and seconded by Johns Bailey to pursue a raffle to set up an endowment. Peggy Martin suggested if issues with the tax-exempt status can be resolved and Land & Coates is agreeable, to continue with a vote by email at a later date. Rachel will email an update once questions have been answered.

Gail Timberlake suggested raffling a lawn mower instead of a RTV due to cost the first year to see if it was a success. Tony Hackenburg will research if the ELC should be a 501C3 organization to do the raffle and Cathy Howland will talk to Charla Schubert from the county about their 501 tax-exempt number.

Volunteer Recognition Event: There was a suggestion to make this event an open house for the Fall of 2017 to encourage participation from volunteers. Cathy will check the calendar for dates and bring some suggestions to the June meeting.

Statewide ELC Update: Tony Hackenburg reported that the State ELC lobbied legislature to restore the proposed budget reduction. Both the Virginia House and Senate restored funding, but is pending the governor's approval. In addition, the state ELC is awarding grants in local districts, they received 107 applications.

NEW BUSINESS

Pork Loin Fundraiser: Johns Bailey opened discussion about this year's fundraiser. Tony Hackenburg and Winfred Taylor agreed to help Johns and Peggy will talk to Fran McCreight to ask if she would like to help this year. Allison will arrive by 3 PM to help with taking payments. Flyers were handed out to members who wanted them to distribute.

Meeting Date Change: Cathy Howland shared that a member had suggested to her changing the day of the ELC meeting. After discussion and polling members present, it was decided to leave the meeting as the second Monday, ending each quarter. The June meeting was moved to June 5 due to Cathy and Rachel both being out of the office on the regular scheduled date.

Programming Reports:

{ANR} Working on dates for Groove in the Garden dates

The Meats Judging team did well at the state completion

Rachel will be in Ireland during May participating in an agent exchange program

{4-H} 4-H camp registration has started. Boy's spots are filled, but still have girl's spots available

Water wizard program is coming up

May 11 is Farm Day at Fighting Creek Park for all 3 elementary schools 9am-1:45pm

{Master Gardeners} Graduation luncheon was held in January to celebrate the previous years class

A grapevine pruning workshop was held in February

{MSWCD} Sent out surveys to find out which VACAP programs would be beneficial to residents

Upcoming Events:

Pork Loin Fundraiser

Apr 14

Earth Day

Apr 20

Spring Garden Fest

Apr 22

Celebration of the Horse

May 6

NEXT MEETING

Next Quarterly ELC Meeting: Monday June 5, 2017, at 8:00 am.