

Minutes: SUNBELT IMPLEMENTAION COMMITTEE meeting on May 19, 2009
8:30 a.m.

The meeting got a late start due to a glitch in the Poly Com arrangements. I suspect some gave up and missed the meeting. However the following were present: Ben Beach, Nick Comerford, Henry Grant, Clay Olson, Louise Ryan, Amy Simone, Art Teixeira, and Wayne Smith. Wayne Smith declared the members present a quorum and began the meeting.

Wayne reported that at present we had application from two exhibitors, Clyde Fraise and Don Rockwood. The group present discussed a number of contacts made and received In addition Julie Wilson who was present representing 4-H gave a report on an exhibit being planned by her group for the centennial celebration. With the recruitment efforts by those not present and the ones discussed we are optimistic that by closing date, July 10, we will have a reasonable number to choose from for the exhibition.

A landscape design is under development by a landscape architect in the Environmental Horticulture Department. Wayne will ask Terril Nell to send the design to Nick Comerford who will initiate planning for installation of the irrigation system and pass on specified plants to Clay Olson who will price out for procurement. Henry Grant advised Clay of a source he has that might have affordable plants. In the meantime Steve Perry is having electrical access installed for a timer and making plumbing connections to the Sun Belt water system. It will have cut-off and back-drain capacity for freeze protection and backflow prevention. It will be made ready for irrigation system connection. In addition Steve will have a pipe placed underneath the concrete slab at the rear of the building for irrigation access to the north side of the building. Nick will coordinate with Steve. Once the irrigation is installed the plants will be procured and planting, hopefully with assistance from the Leon County Master Gardeners. The installed landscape will be maintained by the Quincy staff. We are still open to recommended plants for the area.

Diann Douglas has prepared a preliminary list of potential signs (we can accommodate 10) for the building interior. Please review these and recommend additions, revisions etc.

Dr. Joyce has recommended that a fence be added to the front porch to help protect the plantings and to improve the esthetics of the building. Steve Perry is pricing out this modification

Web cam utility was discussed and the consensus was to continue their use since it is now at no cost to us and to modify the home page during the Expo such that when the page is opened the two views are there rather than the picture of the building.

Computer stations staffing and management was discussed. Ben reported that the computers would be structured such that they would only access IFAS websites (rather than Face Book, U Tube and various emails that were observed last year.

Lodging options were compiled by Ben Beach and placed in Peer Point. It was recommended that they be directly accessible from the home page and not be configured just for internal access. Ben will facilitate this change.

Henry reported that Sun Belt actually wants name lists by September 1. We had not communicated this date to exhibitor applicants. We will work with Henry and Sun Belt to resolve the problem of badge and parking pass requests the day before expo.

Wayne explained that it has not been in the budget to pay for display development and travel. He explained that if there were exhibits critical to the theme for which funds were needed to prevent a deal-breaker that he had good experiences in the past in obtaining support. He is optimistic this time because we were not asking for funding for “trinkets and trash”. So we need to develop budget for the site and building modification and budget for “deal breakers” especially travel for important displays

There was a discussion of LED Monitor usage. The conclusion was that if they enhance displays we might try to invest in one or two. But the consensus remains that they do not replace the presence of a knowledgeable person and interactive displays.

The next meeting will be held after the July 10 closing date for applications and hopefully after progress on the landscaping. Toward this date: **PLEASE PROVIDE WAYNE SMITH THE DATES YOU WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE DURING THE TIME PERIOD, JULY 13 TO 22, 2009 FOR A POLY COM MEETING.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.