

Minutes of Meeting of the Steering Committee for IFAS Sun Belt Exhibition

1. Called to order in McC 3031 at 3:00 p.m. February 26, 2009. The following members were present and introduced themselves. John Arthington, Charlotte Emerson, Marilyn Norman, Amy Simonne, Wayne Smith, Art Tiexeira, Pete Vergot (by Poly Com). Absent. Nick Comerford.
2. Theme: Family, Farm, Food, Fiber, Fuel and Environment. This theme favored by the Deans was discussed as to whether it should be refined (shortened). The consensus was to stick with it in outreach to unit and simplify as necessary as the exhibition is finalized.
3. Completing the membership of Implementation Committee. The Steering Committee will be joined by county faculty and others as appropriate to form an Implementation Committee. Members confirmed to date include. Steve Perry with Facilities Operations; Henry Grant, Les Harrison, Heather Kent; Louise Ryan (IT webmaster), Northwest District; Clay Olson and Ben Beach (IT) have been recommended –two others to be named; two members to be named from Central District.
4. Memo of Invitation to IFAS Leaders (Draft Distributed). Some comments have been received by Wayne Smith, more anticipated. Recommended that the Exhibit Application form accompany the memo. Wayne to draft and circulate.
5. 2008 Recommendations for 2009.
 - A. Interior Banners. A few will visit site, see what Georgia did and come back with a recommendation for the committee.
 - B. Landscaping with IFAS plant material. A few that would necessarily include Nick Comerford or his faculty representatives and Steve Perry to see area available and determine plant materials appropriate and explore management options for best appearance. It was recommended by John that we may want to sod just before the event to assure high quality appearance.
 - C. More rockers. Discussed by discarded. We actually need an attractive exhibit that draws attention on the porch.
 - D. Web Cameras. Discussion deferred
 - E. Structural Arrangements. Requires site visit but the Polar Cooler was determined to be essential.
 - F. Give Aways. Rely on what we have in inventory and make no new purchases.
 - G. Best in Show Award. Discussed difficulty in setting criteria and making selection. Discussion tended toward developing a mechanism that would allow the visitors to choose.
 - H. Proposed Timeline. Reviewed and concluded that we were on course for meeting the recommended timeline.
6. Sun Belt Site Visit. Since Nick's presence at site is critical, Pete was to contact Nick and obtain 2 or three days that he could visit the site and we would then determine the most suitable day for others.
7. Other. Question. Just what does the Steering Committee do? We provide overall guidance for developing the theme and soliciting exhibits compatible with the chosen theme and implementing the exhibition.
8. Next Meeting by Poly Com will be set after we complete the committee and after the site visit.
9. Adjourned at 4:20 p.m.