

UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 21, 2013

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric Radlof
Kath Nelson
Tyler Hardy
Suzanne Harvey
Collete Valade
Beth Todgham
Erna Johnson
Kim Roy
Robert Demers
Jim Belanger

EXTENSION STAFF PRESENT

Dan Reidy
Jon Nute
George Hamilton
Awilda Muniz
Sharon Cowen
Heidi Bennett
Jim Grady
Jolee Chase

MEETING OPEN

The meeting opened with introductions around the table at 7:10pm

Minutes for the December 2012 and January 2013 were reviewed. Motions were made to approve both sets of minutes (after changing Suzanne's name in the January minutes). Motions passed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jim Belanger announced that the potato had been voted on in the House as the official State Vegetable. The bill now moves to the Senate. He indicated that HB330, relative to a county income tax was killed. He requested information/guidance on SB141, a bill regarding Farm to Table, from members of the Advisory Council.

EXTENTION OVERVIEW

Jim Grady presented a Power Point that outlined the history of the Land Grant College system, both nationally and at the state level. He indicated that Extension will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2014 and that a movement was beginning to have some kind of celebration. Jim outlined how Extension has changed with the Re-Extension process, but the mission has remained the same. The presentation explained the key roles played by of the Advisory Councils in terms of assessing community needs, setting program priorities, providing oversight and serving as a credible voice for Extension in the community. Jim provided a detailed account of where funding for Extension comes from and in what percentages.

STAFF PRESENTATION FORMAT

Recommendation was made that the Advisory Council consider changing the format used for staff presentations for the coming year. Instead of individual staff presentations, they would be done within the framework of the new program areas (Food & Agriculture; Natural Resources; Youth & Family and Community & Economic Development). If a staff member worked in multiple program areas, they would do multiple presentations. Non-Hillsborough County based staff who provide programs and/or services in the County would be part of the presentations as well. Process would be spread out over 3-

4 months; staff evaluations would be completed after each presentation instead of doing them all at the November meeting. Goal would be to do the presentations in the September-December 2013 time frame.

4H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STAFF SEARCH

The Search Committee, including Colette Valade and Jolee Chase has been screening resumes received to fill the vacancy created by Mike Koski. The field will be narrowed down to 3-4 candidates. These candidates will be invited to make presentations at the March Advisory Council meeting. This meeting will start at 6:00pm and be held at the Bouchard Building.

BUDGET UPDATE

Dan indicated that it was still early in the process and a more formal update will be available at the March meeting. The process has changed since the budget is no longer reviewed on a line item basis but instead a bulk amount is requested from the County for expenses (an amount roughly equal to salaries).

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

There are three areas where volunteers are needed to fill committee vacancies. After some discussion, Colette and Kim volunteer to rotate the duties of secretary; Eric Radlof volunteered to serve as treasurer and Kath Nelson, Suzanne Harvey and Erma Johnson volunteered to serve on the Public Awareness Team.

STAFF UPDATES

Heidi Bennett: Heidi invited Council members to visit programs she is offering in Manchester in March. Both are cooking/food safety classes. One will be held at Our Place on Oak Street and the other at the YWCA. Anyone interested in attending should contact Heidi directly.

Sharron Cowen: Sharon announced that listen sessions, sponsored by the Granite State Futures Initiative, are being planned for Manchester and Nashua. She will provide more information as it becomes available.

George Hamilton: George completed his travels to Hershey, PA and Mobile, AL, but has several other trips planned for the near future, including one to Michigan. He has been involved in a number of statewide meetings, including Giant Pumpkin Growers, Vegetable/Berry Growers, Fruit Growers and Bee Keepers. An expert on honey bees from Penn State will be giving back-to-back presentations at the Fruit Growers and Bee Keepers events. George has been providing pesticide training at locations throughout the state.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm with Advisory Council Members invited to tour the Extension offices. Next meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2013 – Start time will be 6:00pm. It will be held at the Bouchard Building.