

Minutes from Flower Power Meeting on **Feb. 15, 2022**
(including additional accomplishments **up to March 7, 2022**)

*** 12-noon- 12:45: FFP Founder, **Jean Woods** welcomed the group and introduced Chef Rich Perry of Longfin Grill (Meadows of Dan) who described the delicious dishes he had prepared for us. (With thanks to Jean for providing the lunch, and to Branch Manager, **Joann Verostko** for reserving and then helping us with setting-up & clean-up after our meeting in the Library Community Room!)

Jean reminded everyone that the number on each table matched the number on each attendee's name tag... so they could sit together and brainstorm about their assigned topic during the lunch. After lunch, representatives from each table reported about their topic to the entire group:

Before the meeting, copies of the FFP Mission Statement (as well as the updated Directory, the minutes from the last meeting, and today's agenda were distributed to attendees.

Jean was able to show everyone the colorful new FFP Logo which will be inserted into any reprintings of the Mission Statement, the tri-fold of books at the Library, etc. (Many thanks to **Nicole Hirsch and her intern, Meredith!**)

*** 12:45-1:30: Table 1 re: Grants, Interns & Funding:

TABLE 1 re: Grants: **Kathleen Legg** shared with the group the information she had gathered about a few small grant opportunities and stated that any grant applications are to be submitted to Partnership for Floyd, through **Jane Cundiff**. **John Hopkins** kindly agreed to help Kathleen with some of the grant writing. **Jean** reported that she has access to the Virginia Tech Research Application for Grants, and Jean will let Kathleen know if she finds any grants through that resource. **Ellie Roe** shared information about grant money available through the VA Native Plant Society. Ellie has sent the grant information to Brittany and to Blue Mountain School teacher, Jenni Heartway. Ellie will also send this grant information to Kathleen.

Table 1 re: Interns: **Brittany Quesenberry** reported to the group about Interns: If anyone is interested in having a FCHS intern, please email Brittany (quesenberrybr@floyd.k12.va.us) and let her know about the tasks in mind for an intern, and then Brittany will put it out to the students. Brittany stated that all of the teachers are on board with the Intern program. **Ian Caton** stated he will provide Brittany with information about the benches and bird houses that will need to be made for the Church of Christ gardens. **Brittany** agreed to send to Jean Woods a budget for the materials needed to have the benches/bird houses made.

Table 1 re: Library Books: Prior to the start of the meeting, **JoAnn Verostko** had distributed copies of the tri-fold containing a list of books available at the libraries. The next printing will include information about the libraries, the Flower Power logo, and the FFP mission statement. The tri-fold will be distributed at the Library circulation desk, and **Joann** will provide a copies of the tri-fold with the Logo etc. **to Kathleen** (for distribution at Visitor's Center), and to **Floyd Mitchell** (floydm.40@gmail.com/ 540-745-4404) at Church of Christ; and also to **Melissa Banks/ Fred First** for distribution by the Chamber of Commerce, Sustain Floyd, the Farmer's Market, etc.

Joy Gardner will look into web domains for the Flower Power website. Note: 5 email addresses will be included with the domain.

*** **Nicole Hersch** was not able to attend the meeting on Feb. 15, but she emailed all of us on Feb. 28 to say that Plant Southwest Virginia has partnered with Sustain Floyd and other local groups to distribute FREE native bare root plants in Floyd this Spring. The New River Valley Regional Commission will be distributing the native plants soon so reserve your plants today. They are going fast! Go to <https://sustainableblacksburgva.org/>

TABLE 2 re: Town Projects: Our new Town Manager, Andrew Morris was introduced and welcomed to FFP. Andrew indicated his interest in being involved with FFP as a Core Team Member working on any of the Town projects. (Although **Velva Groover** was not able to attend the meeting on Feb. 15, prior to the meeting **Velva Groover** had agreed to participate on the Town Projects team.)

*****Kayla Cox** reported she had met with **Ian Caton** and discussed what to put in the planter boxes and at the main entry welcome signs. They had talked about having some pilot boxes with perennials (so as to cut down on maintenance) and plants that would be green and blooming most of the time. Ian is creating a list/collection of plant photos to include name/season and textural information.

Kamala Bauers from Partnership for Floyd offered to send a letter to the Town Council requesting more funding (in addition to the current budget for garden maintenance and other "Beautification" projects) so that the Town Planters, Alcoves, Lineberry Park gardens, entry signs and more might be eye-catching and lush. Kayla reported that any planting on the Courthouse grounds needs approval from the Courthouse Judge.

***On March 7, Jean Woods reported that **Barbara Pleasant**, a plant expert/ PFF advisor has some ideas for the Town planter boxes, the entry welcome sign areas, the alcoves, and the Lineberry Park garden spaces. Barbara agreed to coordinate with everyone involved re: the plants, soil, and schedule for the planter boxes and sign areas. She will work with Delaney's to acquire the plants and with Andrew Morris for funding from the Town.

Barbara will also prepare a maintenance plan for the Town to keep the planters looking good year round (including during the winter, e.g. miniature evergreen trees or pine boughs.) She will consider native plants where appropriate, but for this year the focus will be on blooming plants and color. Natives will also be included in other areas.

<<Perhaps **Nicole's** organization can provide funds for some FFP signs for each planter/alcove/ the entry plants? Perhaps **Jane Cundiff** can advise as to the best type of signs etc.??>>

*** **Melissa Banks** confirmed to that she is willing to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce businesses (e.g. with FaceBook posts) to keep members aware of opportunities for them to participate, receive plants, advice etc. She will also keep informed by attending the monthly FFP Meetings.

After the meeting, Melissa Banks and Ellie brainstormed more about how Melissa could help get the Chamber of Commerce businesses involved. Some ideas that were discussed are to point out what FFP could offer to each of the Chamber businesses:

*** Help from our FFP Advisors re: which plants to choose, where and how to plant them, which planting soil/ mulch to use, the care and watering schedule they should plan to use etc., so their business space will look LUSH. (As a FFP Participant, the business owner could use the updated Directory, and could email/ connect directly with "FFP Advisors," Ian Caton, Fred First, Barbara Pleasant, Jane Cundiff, Nicole Hersch, Maya Skopal, Sarah Dulaney, &/or Velva Groover.)

*** Help to provide some of the free plants (e.g. from Nicole Hersch's group; the Plant Propagation Center in Blacksburg ...once it's up and running; also _____?);

*** Help from Joann Verostko with finding and checking out the many plant books now available at the Library;

*** Help from our Grant team (Kathleen, John Hopkins, Jane Cundiff, Nicole Hersch) to procure some grant monies... so that FFP could help them purchase some recommended plants with the grant money; or FFP could provide grant money to the Business owner so they could purchase the plants (with receipts/ ____???);

*** Help with the work of getting their space ready and then installing the plants (e.g. they could connect with Brittany re: interns from FCHS; **Tara Orlando** has offered the help of volunteers from the Asylum Seekers group; Young Life teens (e.g. whenever the next Project Floyd Day is set up); and also perhaps... helpers from Floyd Master Gardeners/ Master Naturalists in Floyd?;

*** Provide each participating business with a FFP sign in their window/ in their garden space acknowledging their participation: "Plants in this space are cared for & loved by _____ Business"

*** Perhaps FFP could offer a contest and prize to the participating businesses: "the most improved"?/ "the most LUSH--?/ _____?"

*** **Ellie Roe** reported for Liz Mears about the Floyd Center for the Arts plans for a pollinator garden and a meadow garden with some of the funds they received from the New River Master Gardeners. <<< Again, could **Nicole's** group help fund some signage e.g. about the purposes of a pollinator garden? >>>

Also Liz has asked Wendy Silverman, the NRVMG leader, to find a local Master Gardener who contact Jean about becoming involved with FFP.

Likewise, Ellie is asking Michael Williams to refer a local Master Naturalist to contact Jean about becoming involved with FFP.

Table 3 re: Site Plans:

Jean Woods reported on progress with the 613 E Main St, and is currently looking for a muralist to do the side walls of the building.

Ian Caton reported on progress with the plans for the Church of Christ gardens;

Kamala Bauers reported progress in working with Ian Caton on plans for the Walls Residences; also Kamala is continuing to make contact with the owners of the School House Fabrics re: the crumbling retaining wall.

<<< The Next Core Team Meeting Date is on **Tuesday, March 15th, 12-noon** at the **HOTEL FLOYD**. <<< Please let Jean know whether you can/ cannot stay past 1:30, as it seemed a bit rushed at the last meeting to be able to finish lunch, have time for brainstorming and then get through a very full agenda ...all by 1:30?! *** We would like to propose the firm end-time on March 12 might be 2:00 (i.e. **12-noon till 2:00?**) ***

