

<b>Friends for Summerfield</b>		<b>February 6, 2007</b>	
		<b>7:00 PM</b>	
		<b>7591 Cassidy Way</b>	
<b>Meeting called by:</b>	Friends for Summerfield	<b>Type of meeting:</b>	Regular Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Steve Adkins	<b>Note taker:</b>	Kim Jackson
<b>Timekeeper:</b>	N/A		
<b>Attendees:</b>	Debbie Hoffman, Jan and Terry McLean, Willie Laughlin, Bill and Mary Jane Gordon, Sue Beeson, Steve Lalumondier, Steve and Deb Adkins, Jay Copeland, Linda Southard, Beth Kaplan, Kim Jackson, Mike Stewart, Alicia Flowers, Bob Williams, Jack Reid, Glen Claeys, Jim Ball, Elizabeth Ingram, Paul Scott, Judy Blair, Jane Doggett, Maggie Molnar, Troy Stanliff (26)		
<b>Please read:</b>	N/A		
<b>Please bring:</b>	N/A		
<b>Minutes</b>			
<b>Agenda item:</b>	Opening Statement	<b>Presenter:</b>	Steve Adkins
<b>Discussion:</b>	Steve Adkins opened the meeting shortly after 7:00 pm. He asked if everyone had seen the Northwest Observer's recent article about <i>Friends for Summerfield</i> . He has received several positive phone calls and comments from citizens who are interested as a result of the coverage we have received. He also stated that attendance at these meetings is symbolizing our commitment to making some positive changes for Summerfield.		
<b>Conclusions:</b>	-		
<b>Action items</b>		<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
✓ None		-	-
<b>Agenda item:</b>	Friends For Summerfield on the Northwest Observer Forum	<b>Presenter:</b>	Steve Adkins
<b>Discussion:</b>	Steve Adkins demonstrated how to log in and use the Northwest Observer Forum. He showed attendees that a thread specific to the Friends for Summerfield had been created and invited everyone to read or post if they were so inclined.		
<b>Conclusions:</b>			
<b>Action items</b>		<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
✓ None		-	-

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Special Presentation	<b>Presenter:</b>	Jan McLean
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Jan McLean presented the new website that will represent the Friends for Summerfield. The web address is <a href="http://www.friendsforsummerfield.com">www.friendsforsummerfield.com</a>. He showed the group some example pages that he had been working on. On the front page of the site, Jan had a photograph of a road with the logo, "We're moving forward". Terry McLean had made a poster representing this same idea. Steve Adkins said that this statement did a good job summarizing the focus of our group. Jan showed the attendees various aspects of the site. One of the pages was a "Hot Topics" page, where visitors to the site could get information on what the group is working on. He said that there was a lot of potential for this site and asked the group to visit the site and invited feedback. Jane Doggett asked if we would be using forms to collect contact info. Steve said that they had discussed putting a "contact us" link on the site to collect this type of information.</p>		
<b>Conclusions:</b>	<p>Steve Adkins asked if everyone thought we should consider a web site committee. The attendees agreed. Later in the meeting, Steve asked for volunteers to help Jan on this committee. Kim Jackson and Beth Kaplan agreed to assist Jan in whatever way they could.</p>		
<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	
✓ Add a "contact us" link to the site	Jan McLean	-	
<b>Agenda item:</b>	Review Letter to Town Council	<b>Presenter:</b>	Steve Adkins
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Steve Adkins read a letter that he is planning to read at the February 13 Town Council meeting (attached). The letter will introduce our group and give insight as to what our purpose is. Alicia Flowers asked how much time the speakers would take away from Town Council meetings. She also asked what the rebuttal speakers would be speaking about. Jay Copeland explained that we would speak during the "speakers from the floor" portion of the meeting and Debbie Hoffman stated that we would back up any rebuttal with facts and proof. Steve asked for input on the letter and the group offered a lot of feedback. Elizabeth Ingram stated that it would be wise to anticipate the questions that may be asked and be prepared to answer them. Group members decided that "rebuttal" might be too strong a word and felt that the word "response" might be more positive. Mrs. Flowers said that we would most likely need to play it by ear for the first couple of meetings. The group agreed. Sue Beeson said that it was important to be sure that we had our facts in order before responding to other speakers.</p>		
<b>Conclusions:</b>	<p>The group was in agreement that the letter accurately represented the Friends for Summerfield.</p>		
<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	
✓ Steve will read letter introducing FFS at the Town Council meeting	Steve Adkins	Feb. 13	

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Select Positive Speaker for next Town Council Meeting	<b>Presenter:</b>	Steve Adkins
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Steve asked if everyone was ok with his reading of the above letter serving as our positive speaker.</p>		
<b>Conclusions:</b>	<p>Attendees agreed that the letter should serve as our positive message.</p>		
<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	
✓ Steve Adkins will serve as the FFS positive speaker for February	Steve Adkins	Feb. 13	

<b>Agenda item:</b>	Select Rebuttal Speaker for next Town Council Meeting	<b>Presenter:</b>	Steve Adkins
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>In light of earlier discussion, the group agreed that we need to be careful to have our facts in order before responding to speakers. Jane Doggett voiced concern that we would be ill prepared to respond to most comments immediately after they were made unless it was something about the park. Sue Beeson was asked to respond to any misinformation given about the park.</p>		
<b>Conclusions:</b>	<p>Sue Beeson stated that she would be happy to state facts about the park if necessary.</p>		
<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	
✓ None	-	-	
<b>Agenda item:</b>	Education - Mayor/Council vs. Manager/Council Govt.	<b>Presenter:</b>	Jane Doggett
<b>Discussion:</b>	<p>Jane Doggett researched the Manager/Council type of government vs. the Mayor/Council form of government and shared the results of her research. She said that the Mayor/Council form, which we now have, brings the citizens closer to the government but is used primarily for very small towns. Summerfield is now a medium sized town and there are many issues that need attention in a timely manner. She stated that it sometimes takes months for a decision to be made because council only meets once a month to discuss them. She feels that changing to this type of government would make the town run more efficiently. Time sensitive issues would not have to wait for the council to meet and approve them.</p> <p>In short, <b><i>The council-manager form of government would combine the policy-making responsibilities of the Town Council with the technical expertise of the town administrator (manager). With this type of government, an ordinary citizen can be elected to represent the broad policy concerns of the citizens while ensuring that they are implemented by trained professionals.</i></b></p> <p>Alicia Flowers expressed concern that the Manager/Council form of government would put a lot of power in one person's hands and wanted to know where the checks and balances were. Jane stated that the checks and balances were in the policies that the council sets forth. The manager would still be answerable to the town council and would be required to stay within the budget set by council. Checks require two signatures and detailed financial reports would tell the council exactly where the money is being spent.</p> <p>Several people suggested that a concise "pros and cons" sheet referencing where to find more on the information might be helpful to the average citizen. Mike also offered to talk to the managers in Madison and Mayodan to hear their thoughts on this type of government.</p>		
<b>Conclusions:</b>	<p>The FFS would like more information on this subject, beginning with the opinions of the Town Council members.</p>		
<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	
✓ None	-	-	

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<b>Agenda item:</b>	Will FFS Support a Referendum to change over to Manager Council form of Government?	<b>Presenter:</b>	Jane Doggett
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**Discussion:**

Jane explained the procedure for starting a petition and getting a referendum to change the charter put on the ballot. She stated that if the FFS wanted to do this, time was of the essence. Mrs. Flowers voiced concern that the people would not have a voice in who was chosen as manager. Beth Kaplan stated that the manager would still have to follow the policies set forth by the elected town council members.

Mrs. Flowers asked if there wasn't an easier way than by referendum. Jane said that yes, the Town Council could decide to make the change. Mrs. Flowers, speaking for the average citizen, asked "what is this change going to do for me?" Mike Stewart stated that one example would be lowered cost to the taxpayer. Staff time preparing for council meetings is quite costly. Linda Southard said that she would like to see us move forward with this.

Debbie Hoffman asked what the "cons" were to this form of government. Jane answered by saying that our current form of government brought the voters closer to the government and that we are administrated by committee. Right now, no one person is accountable for anything that happens. The council will also be giving up some day to day control on the running of the town.

Sue Beeson voiced concern about taking on such a big issue as one of our first projects. She feels that we need to offer our support if the council chooses to adopt this, but she doesn't think it would be wise to force the change at this point.

**Conclusions:**

The group felt that it would be best to hear the council discussion on this topic giving the council the opportunity to adopt the manager/council form on their own. The FFS could decide after the town council discusses it, whether or not to support the change to the manager/council form of government.

Steve Adkins asked Jane Doggett to draft a "form" letter for FFS members to copy and send to Mark Brown asking for this to be put on the agenda at a future meeting.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Draft a letter for FFS members to send to Mayor Brown	Jane Doggett	-
✓ Email requests to hear discussion on two types of govt. to Mayor	FFS	Feb. 13

**Agenda item:** Open Discussion

**Presenter:** Group

**Discussion:**

Steve Adkins asked what we would like to focus on at the next meeting. Mrs. Flowers asked where to go to find out more on the Mayor/Council - Manager/Council forms of government. Steve suggested putting links on the website leading to more information on this subject.

Jane Doggett stated that we may need to find a larger meeting facility in the future. Jay Copeland said that he was in the process of finishing his basement and that we could meet there when it is finished.

**Conclusions:**

**Action items**

**Person responsible**

**Deadline**

✓ Put info on 2 types of govt. along with links on website

Jan McLean

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Mayor Brown, Town Council Members, and Mr. Brandt:

The Friends for Summerfield held its first meeting on January 25 at the home of Steve & Deborah Adkins in Summerfield. It was well attended. Many others have voiced support of the group. The Northwest Observer ran an article in the Feb 2 - 8 edition on the formation of the group.

The Friends for Summerfield will be a Positive, Pro-Summerfield group, with a "Can Do" attitude. Meetings will be publicized and open; there will be no mysteries to this group. Participation is open to all Summerfield residents who look to a Positive Future for Summerfield.

The group was formed due to negative events in Summerfield's recent history, including Concerned Citizens behaviors, abuse of Freedom of Information Act requests, staff resignations, and obstacles regarding Park Phase II and baseball fields.

Each Month, Friends for Summerfield will have a speaker with a positive subject. When possible, Friends for Summerfield will present fact-based responses to ensure that misperceptions are clarified & misinformation is corrected.

Friends for Summerfield look forward to working with the Town Council to help shape Summerfield's future.

Respectfully,  
Steve Adkins  
Chairperson - Friends for Summerfield