

**GO FORWARD PINE BLUFF**  
Quality of Life Committee Meeting  
June 20, 2016

Attorney Alexandra Kosmitis noted Pine Bluff Positive Youth Development Program had received \$1M to develop and promote a youth program similar in context to P.A.R.K. They came to our group for (a) advice (b) assistance and (c) information. The biggest hurdle she and Nick Makris noted was in establishing a Board that is engaged in the project and willing to assist in future fundraising efforts. Several members voiced an interested in their program.

Ms. Mary Ann Kizer, Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service, spoke to the committee about a CDC grant that their department is seeking and the possibly of the Go Forward Pine Bluff Quality of Life Committee being a part of that grant. The focus of the grant would be on community gardens and obesity. Ms. Kizer noted that 40% of Jefferson County residence were obese. The strategy would be to increase access to physical activities such as, walkway, bike paths and introducing health lifestyles. She invited the committee members to attend a workshop on Thursday, June 16 at the Jefferson County Extension Services Building in Pine Bluff. The committee had received a flyer about the workshop at the May meeting. Committee members signed up to attend and participate in the workshop and the grants the Cooperative Extension Service is seeking.

The committee was also invited to attend the Delta River Alliance Bayou workshop to be held on Friday, June 17 at the Arts and Science Center of Southeast Arkansas. Mr. Jimmy Cunningham, author of two books concerning Delta history, life and culture is scheduled to speak at the workshop.

There was a discussion about the preliminary meetings that the committee had some of the outcomes of those meetings. Some of the discussions were: that the city has employed a new marketing director, Ms. Cynthia Hines. We hope that the committee may be able to meet with her in the near future to hear her vision and share some of our ideas; the renovation of the hotel that is attached to the Convention Center; this hotel would be an ideal location that wouldn't require a great deal of renovation or dollars to renovate; having attractive signage throughout the city; that the area near the Jefferson County Courthouse and the area adjacent to the Simmons Bank parking lot might be used for Food Trucks; promoting the city through an annual Multicultural Festival; seeking a grant for street lighting (GE Grant?-Detroit, Michigan); establishing safe zone. This would provide a positive event that Pine Bluff would be "known for".

The committee wanted some general information about the following jobs in Pine Bluff: City Planner, Code Enforcement, Marketing Director, Webmaster, Grants Coordinator, city programs, and tourism.

Mr. Randy Wright, our facilitator, directed the group about our focus and charge for the GFPB initiative. The committee was broken into subcommittee to establish goals, objectives and task/activities for the areas of safety, things to do, and marketing. It was stressed to the committee that the economic development benefit should be the underlying focus.