

## **Portal Partnership Meeting March 30, 2009**

Attending: Larry Motes, Emory Hagins, Abraham Williams, Dianne Lewis, Shannon Hattaway, Dianne Bath

### Notes:

Dianne Lewis and Shannon Hattaway were welcomed into the group.

Larry Motes gave an update on the sewer system project. He received the permits from EPD and the project is ready to move forward. He also reported that he had to commit to Phase II to be able to finance the project. He had hoped to be able to focus on the community center. He also brought a copy of the stimulus funding available to communities to share with the group. Everyone is going to look at the avenues for funding to see if there is a source for the immediate needs for a community center, after school programming, and early child care. Mr. Motes also shared that the new high school bids were accepted at the March Board of Education meeting.

Emory Hagins and Abraham Williams reported that the after school program was going well at Pine Grove. They have about 24 students in attendance. They are still concerned about the reading and math skills of the students. They also reported they have renewed their 501 3C status and would be eligible to receive grants.

Shannon Hattaway and Dianne Lewis shared their desire to help with the after school programming at Pine Grove. They both work with service learning at the high school through the Anchor Club and Project Share. They thought they might be able to get some students to help during spring break as well as during the summer programming.

Dianne Bath brought the school council information and the updated goals and timelines to the meeting to share with everyone. The goals will be enlarged for viewing. She announced that the NNER Community Engagement Committee is looking for voices from the community to participate in a meeting at the Fall NNER Conference in Seattle in October (dates are 15-17). There may or may not be funding to support attendance. Emory and Abraham agreed to have their name submitted to represent the community voice.

Group discussed beginning to move forward on the recreational facilities for the community now that the high school location had been determined and ground work started. The first step was to talk with Mike Rollins of the Statesboro Bulloch County Recreation Department and David Ball, who is the Board of Education representative for Portal. Dianne would contact Mike Rollins and Larry would contact David Ball and bring a report of their findings. There was discussion of a petition of support for the need. It was to be determined when and how to do.

Next meeting is April is Monday, April 27 at 6:00 at Portal City Hall.