

BEN FRANKLIN SOCIETY (BFS)
Initial Meeting Detailed Agenda
Thursday, September 25, 2008 @ 7:00pm
County Commissioners Room, Louisburg

1. Brief Welcoming Comments

- a. Welcome, Familiar & New Faces – Great! – mention Master Sign-in Sheet
- b. 1st of 3 Meetings (Oct & Nov 2008) this fall to kickoff BFS for 2009.
- c. Purpose: (1) I want you to VOLUNTEER, (2) Join BFS and (3) Work on a worthwhile project. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Because I am a VOLUNTEER – I understand that ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! As Ag Board Chairman, Co-Chair w/Martha Mobley of the FCFT, CDP (FC Comprehensive Development Plan) public participant, outspoken proponent for Agri/Eco/Recreational Tourism in FC (Drive Sales Tax \$ Revenue), Webmaster of FC FarmFresh website. I will continue to LEAD-BY-EXAMPLE!
- d. BFS not about ME or about what I want you to do - I am simply a catalyst/agent of change; rather, about You and "What You Want To Do"
- e. BFS IS NOT about Ben Franklin, but A TRIBUTE TO HIS GENIUS for "Finding Practical Solutions to Real Problems" – More about Ben Franklin at 3rd Meeting (November) that will kick-off BFS
- f. I need to answer the following (3) questions for you this evening:
 - i. *Why should you VOLUNTEER?*
 - ii. *Why should you join the BFS?*
 - iii. *What can you do that is worthwhile?*
- g. Tonight you will learn that your entry point to participate in a BFS Research Project - "Overlooked Opportunities" as I call them.
- h. Each of you will then have an ample opportunity to tell us WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO FOR FC
- i. The Panel will characterize some Candidate Projects to help give you some ideas – Brief Introductions – Presentation, Q&A later this evening
 - i. Tom Magnuson – PBS/TV/Exploring NC
 - ii. ~~Mary Ann Brittain – PBS/TV/Exploring NC~~
 - iii. Scott Hammerbacher – CDP
 - iv. Eddie Ingram – Senior HS Project Requirement
 - v. ~~Gary Cunard – Franklin Times~~

Why should you VOLUNTEER?

2. History speaks to us

- a. Franklin County was named after Ben Franklin (while alive) in 1799. Felt it was appropriate to honor Ben Franklin's (1706-1790) life quest to ***Find Practical Solutions to Real Problems*** by naming the BFS – he was a Model Volunteer - individual Think Tank – a national hero
- b. Read Alexis de Toqueville's 1835 comments – on VOLUNTEERISM - waiting is futile; more government is ineffective and expensive
- c. We must "Start Solving Problems Ourselves" – a collective Think Tank!
- d. Franklin County has Tremendous Potential and many Overlooking Resources that are Off-the-Radar – YOUR IDEAS!

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Why should you join the BFS?

3. BFS is a DIFFERENT TYPE of Service Organization

- a. Why?
 - i. 2+ yrs analyzing existing FC organizations - “tired”, EXCLUSIVE
 - ii. FC needs to get new folks involved – new blood - Energy, Enthusiasm, Youth, Action!
 - iii. Need broader scope - “Future Value to the County” - INCLUSIVE
 - iv. Must leverage our impact
 - v. Need to increase quality of life in FC, while reducing future development impact costs
- b. How? Innovative Organizational Approach – NEW MOTIVATORS
 - i. Project-centric (bottom-up) vs. Organization-centric (to-down)
 - ii. Active vs. Passive Involvement
 - iii. Members work independently vs. executive committee
 - iv. Mentoring tie-in with our Students vs. isolated activity
 - v. Exciting Quarterly Meetings vs. boring monthly socials
 - vi. Internet-based vs. USPS
 - vii. Simple Rules (TSR - Trust, 100% Support & Respect) vs. RRO (Robert’s Rules of Order) legalism

4. Ben Franklin Society Principles

- a. Non-Profit, Non-Political, Non-Religious
- b. Umbrella Organization – Collection of Independent Projects on topics that Members want to do!
- c. Individual and Collaborative Research Projects on Matters of Future Value to FC
- d. Membership requires Active Participation in a Project
- e. Active projects must make Visual Presentation at Quarterly Society Meetings
- f. Commitment to Student Mentoring
- g. Leverage all Project Deliverables – Help Drive Sales Tax Revenue \$
- h. Internet technology-driven – communication/collaboration
- i. TSR (The Sunday Rules)
- j. Can Do, Fun, Healthy, Rewarding

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What can you do that is worthwhile?

- 5. What Are Society Research Proposals & Projects**
 - a. Not theoretical/academic; rather, practical/results-oriented
 - b. Produce Deliverables of “Future Value to the County” – report, map, asset
 - c. Economic / Tourism / Quality-of-Life potential
 - d. Less than 1 calendar year in duration
 - e. 3/4 Society Membership Vote to accept a Proposal as a Society Project
 - f. Basis for Society Membership – participation in a Project
 - g. Mentor FC High School Students – two-way benefit - satisfy Senior Project Requirement while transferring internet skills to many of us
 - h. Visual Presentation at Quarterly Society Meetings
 - i. Review website List of Candidate Proposal Ideas

- 6. Panel Presentations - clarify the notion of a Research Proposal/Project**
 - a. Each Panel Member will suggest candidate Project Proposal Ideas
 - i. Tom Magnuson, Trading Path Association
 - ii. Scott Hammerbacher – FC Interim planning Director
 - iii. Eddie Ingram – FC School System Curriculum Director
 - b. All Project Proposal Ideas will be recorded and reviewed at the October 2008 Meeting
 - c. Project Proposals become Research Projects by Society Membership Vote – November 2008 Meeting
 - d. Audience Interaction

- 7. Audience Research Proposal Ideas – TELL US YOUR IDEAS**
 - a. Encourage audience to Propose Research Topics
 - b. Record All Proposal Ideas. Review at next (OCT) Meeting

- 8. We have answered the questions**
 - a. *Why you should VOLUNTEER?*
 - b. *Why you should join the BFS?*
 - c. *What you can do that is worthwhile? Individual or Collaborative Research Projects*

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9. Society Membership Benefits (3C's)

Communication/Collaboration/Coordination

- a. Society Website (www.BenFranklinSocietyNC.org)
- b. Individual Email Accounts with forwarding e.g.
bob.radcliffe@BenFranklinSocietyNC.org
- c. Each Research Project has its own sub-Domain (Website)
e.g. 2008-02-Project.BenFranklinSocietyNC.org
- d. Society LISTSERV & CHAT services for Online Collaboration
- e. Quarterly Meeting Structure – Peer Pressure at its BEST – Presentations
- f. Coordination with both ongoing Society and County Projects
- g. Ongoing Publicity and Q4 Recognition
- h. Supportive Fundraising as needed

10. Next Steps

- a. Review Membership and Project Proposal Forms
- b. Solicit Feedback & Suggestions
- c. Set 2nd October Meeting: date/day, time, location – HANDOUT
TENTATIVE AGENDA – Bring a Guest!
- d. Take home Membership, Project Proposal & Agenda HANDOUTS –
Protocols & Proposals - bring to October Meeting
- e. Check www.BenFranklinSocietyNC.org and The Franklin Times for info
- f. Questions? – take a Business Card – contact me!

11. Closing Remarks

- a. Acknowledge Richie Duncan EDC - Meeting Room
- b. Thank Panel Members – Applause
- c. Thank Audience – Volunteers
- d. Collect Sign-in, Membership Forms and Research Project Proposals