

WELL Steering Committee

May 8, 2006

Speaker Series

Spring: Is someone working on a business panel.

Liam: Lanny is looking into that.

Annie: My problem as a business is how can I localize myself. I would like to have a panel that talks about that.

Richard: I agree with that. Start on a grassroots level, who's here already.

Liam: I know that Lanny has some specific ideas about this but he is not here.

Annie: When do we need to nail this down?

Spring: Soon, by mid May.

Richard: Given the fact that Lanny is not here, not sure when he's coming back. Can we make it for this next couple of months?

Spring: Seems to be very little energy for producing the speaker event. Great if someone is really excited about something.

Richard: Like Register, I was passionate about that and it got done. This week I have another suggestion. Mark Lakeman. He was here before and put on an astounding presentation. Non-profit group, architect, created portable teahouse goes to different locations in Portland. They take back intersections, put in benches, cob construction.

Spring: They are about reclaiming public space for people instead of cars. They have done a lot of work in creating community. Build structures that are part of the people and places. Seems like it would great. Find out when he's coming through.

Richard: Can I go ahead and do that? Proposal approved.

Annie: Berkeley has a City Repair project too.

Spring: Sue Ellen has volunteered to take over producing the speaker series completely. I am sure we would work with her to tell her what we wanted. She offered to do that if it was a money maker for her, by giving her half the door. At the moment we give the speaker half the door. For now the speaker series doesn't pay for itself since I can't really put in the time needed to do it really well.

Annie: What is the amount we make on a speaker event.

Spring: It varies a lot. Jessica Prentice I worked hard, a lot of PR, full scale, and we got \$300, split it with Jessica.

Liam: I am of mixed feelings. On the one hand I would like to see the speaker series get going, on the other hand I was hoping to rope in some of regular members to do this as is written in part of the governance document. It does sound like a way to get the series off the ground and going.

Richard: I have some misgivings about it. For some similar reasons and more. For instance, it seems like more than half the time we use WAGs projector. So if that is still the case someone would be profiting from a community projector. If someone is going to be a subcontractor, it seems like they ought to provide their own equipment. Like the film series, not a penny has been made on that. Makes me a little nervous. Cutting the pie in half worries me.

Jason: I've noticed that we don't always collect money well at these events and maybe that's because we are volunteers. Maybe someone who's pay is tied to this would do a better job.

Annie: I am excited about someone getting a job. Moving away from volunteerism.

Marc: There's the financial compensation that the group gets and there's the intangible things of inspiring people. Getting people excited about these topics, bringing more in could have benefits beyond the financial.

Spring: I think she would do a good job. I agree about moving away from volunteerism. I feel we could accept her offer conditionally, give her a counter proposal.

Richard: I am curious, what has she done.

Spring: I feel like she did Michael Parenti. Some speakers for ACLU.

Annie: Measure H, outreach speaker events. It is a lot of work to do it well. Emails and phone calls, following up on a lot of things. Getting all the equipment and making the room look nice.

Brian S: If we want to do a big event that really needs an organizer to get paid then we can do that. But for sure, people need to get paid. But if someone works 20-30 hours and takes home a \$200 they really didn't get much out of it.

Tim: If someone does get hired we might also want to combine this work with some volunteers. She might want to be approached with that.

Annie: How about if we table this until later and let it sit with us for a while.

Marc: How about a straw pole now.

Tony: I think it might be good to try it.

Financial

Spring: I have been trained and can give you financial reports. I now have quarterly reports and year to date. Mostly what happened is that we lost \$900 from RLNC. We don't have our security deposit back yet, so I am not sure yet how much of that we'll get.

Annie: Is it security or cleaning.

Spring: Not sure, it is about \$1200.

Annie: We should get about \$1000 back.

Spring: If we get our cleaning deposit back we will have broken even for the year. Our bank balance will be about \$800, and if the bumper sticker \$ comes in we will be positive about \$1600. I recommend we lower our overhead charge to REDI and that we think seriously about how to make an income with this organization.

Annie: Who is our liason with REDI? Can we make a request at a board meeting?

Diane: When is the next REDI board meeting?

Spring: First Thurs in June.

Diane: Jason can you take this up at the board meeting?

Spring: Do we want to ask REDI to give us a different deal for RLNC? And then what do we want to do in general?

Liam: I would like to ask that we reduce our RLNC overhead to REDI so that we don't go into the red on that event.

Tim: I think the proposal should be to adjust the MOU to reformulate it.

Liam: I would give thumbs up to both those proposals.

Richard: I think 15% is a pretty fair overhead, but RLNC we can ask about.

Spring: I think we should keep these two issues separate.

Liam: I propose to ask REDI to reduce the \$2577 that we paid by \$898 to make the RLNC income even, so that our payment is \$1779 to REDI. Passed with one absention.

Annie: Can we have more time to discuss this MOU?

Liam: I suggest we put the MOU on the next agenda.

Time Change

Annie: I propose that we move the plenary meetings to start at 7:30. A lot of people didn't come because they wanted to be out in their gardens too late.

Liam: Tabatha goes to bed at 9 pm. Many other go to bed early. That's my objection.

Marc: Keep it simple. Keep it consistent.

Richard: As we move closer to summer it will be light by 9:15 pm.

Jason: I think as people get their gardens in they will not have that issue.

Brian S: If it was much past 7 pm I wouldn't tend to go.

Ron Orenstein

Liam: Ron has been joining Ron W and I on the governance committee. We discussed our 'agreement' with the City since they can't have an MOU. He would like us to speak directly with Alan F because Alan is the one he sees us working with the most. I mentioned that the SC felt that getting into any agreement without a 'halt' would not be profitable to us. And he kinda bristled at that, but I think that the Revite Ed committee is working on the concept of a 'halt' would meet our requirements.

Liam: In the SC we discussed that we didn't want to enter into an agreement until there was a 'halt' because so many things could be rushed through why we were working on the changes.

Tim: Ron is pointing you to Alan, so you want to develop a further relationship with Alan so you can discuss how to move forward.

Liam: And I am not the right person to do that.

Richard: This came up at a plenary long time ago. A citizens commission. If we had some qualified people that could work with Alan on this, you know, with some qualifications. Did we get the Palm Desert document.

Jason: I got that. Must move that forward.

Liam: This is two separate issues. Relationship with Alan, and the Revite Ed committee.

Tim: I would love to see a list of people we'd like to see to talk to Alan.

Jason: The Green/Community mapping group should/is doing this. Why not just put them in charge of this? With our blessing. It came out of a WELL/City cosponsored event. They can do this.

Membership

Freddie: (Reads the document)

Marc: What are the benefits of being a supporting member.

Freddie: You get the discount at the businesses. We don't know for sure it will work, but we need a plan to go out and try. We are trying to get a critical mass of members. We will be taken seriously. So many people want to show up to meetings, this is their way to support.

Liam: Have you considered a family rate on the active membership?

Freddie: It gets to complicated that way.

Diane: Unless the discount is at Mariposa or the hardware store I am not going to benefit. Discounts at local business won't do anything for me.

Tim: Who else is working on this?

Freddie: Amy, Brian, Jan.

Tim: Did our previous discussion in the SC have any impact on your deliberations?

Freddie: Yes.

Liam: I was involved in email exchanges about this.

Tim: I don't like the hierarchical nature of this. The amount of money and time involved. Also the team leaders have to check up on people, when I think we want people to work together.

Jason: I don't know what to do about hierarchy, it is always there in teams, who takes charge to get things done. And I don't know what to do about money and time. We need people with resources to get things done. What are the alternatives? I don't know.

RJ: I was initially very cool on this, but hearing you and thinking about this, I am more impressed. The two-tiered thing I don't know, and I don't know how many businesses will be involved.

Spring: I don't think this will make a lot of money. I do think a lot of people want to be involved by giving money instead of time. It needs to be a very well-done business directory.

Diane: Why don't you switch the active and supporting member costs. If you are active you should pay less.

Jason: I want a really cheap supporting membership so that we can get a lot of membership and have political clout.

Marc: This is great work. It must be done. Thank you. This is going to be similar to what you'll hear in the plenary.

Annie: When do you want to present this Freddie.

Freddie: The first general meeting in June.

Spring: The 12th or the 26th.

County Big Box

Liam: It is long and I have read it. Basically, it defines a formula business that has 10 outlets including outside the county of Mendocino with essentially the same branding. And it reduces size limit to 40,000 sq ft. Comes out of the GULP. But I recommend that we get a copy around to people so we read it and endorse it, and get something similar to Willits. Laytonville has been proposing something similar for 2 years now.

Jason: As a possible 501c3, we can do this kind of endorsement, but can't do political candidate endorsing.

Richard: How does this differ from Richard Johnson's?

Annie: It is very different, this is focused on big boxes.

Richard: I'd love to see a current rendition of this.

Diane: Can we do a straw pole?

Liam: He's adopted wording from existing ordinances that have held up in court.

Jason: In terms of the City adopting this, pass onto Holly. She is supposed to be bringing this issue to the City through Revite Ed.

Next general meeting facilitator

David Drell

Next SC

RJs