

Minutes of WELL Coordinating Committee Meeting – Mar. 3, 2008

CC Members present: All

Others present at all or part of meeting: Liam, Kai Goodwillie (of Sustainable Tucson), Rosamund Crowder, Roger Wilson, Donna d'Terra

Facilitator: Jane McCabe

Minutes: Madge Strong

1. Minutes of Feb. 18th meeting are approved.
2. Staff report: Liam reviewed his written report. Excellent progress on the RLNC agenda and other items. Showed us the first Reality Report CDs.
In addition, he noted that the CalTrans grant schedule is likely to be delayed at least 6 months due to State budget crunch (info from Quinton).
Regarding review of Local Seed Grants, the interview committee (all CC except Michael & Mike, who are applicants) scheduled dates for interviews as follows: Thurs. Mar. 6, 10am-1pm, and Fri. Mar. 7, 10-11:30am. Liam will schedule the applicants during those times, allowing 15-30 minutes each.
CC discussed having Raj Patel as a speaker on Mon. May 5th, supplemented with a local “what we can do/are doing” presentation and tables for people to get action info. Liam will check on speaker fee & schedule. In general, ideas for speakers – locals and others – should go to Liam.
3. Office improvements: With a little logistical assistance (e.g. drying the sealer at Jason’s garage), Michael H. is about ready to do the shelves – noting that the walls & door are not plumb, so he’ll be adjusting as needed!
4. Food happenings: Last Sunday was an excellent meeting of food producers and buyers, with about 100 folks present. Then the Monday Plenary focused on food storage. Then Tuesday at WAG, Mary met John Kichiro, the new Ag teacher at Willits High, who plans major activity at the High School garden (about two acres). Mary wants to devote more time to promote these efforts, so will pull back on CC duties, but is willing to serve until the end of her term.
5. New staff position: After discussion, the job description for the new membership and community networker was approved with minor changes: Salary of \$12-14 per hour depending on experience; must be willing and eligible to be a WELL member. Madge & Liam will write a short version for ads & PR notices to go out ASAP, then have application deadline 3 weeks from when ads appear. (Applicants to provide cover letter and resume.) The interview committee will be Liam, Mary, and Jane. Roger also noted he can help the new person set up an indexed database for members’ interests & projects.
6. CalTrans grant consultant selection: Brian did not attend, and in view of the probable delay in receiving any grant, this item will be deferred again.

7. Willits Watershed Mural: Rosamond & Donna briefly presented their need for a 501(c)3 sponsor to be able to apply for other grants. (This request is independent of their application for a WELL local seed grant.) It was noted that WELL can only have one project per year submitted to the Community Foundation but the deadline is a few days from now and this is the only one in play. The mural is excellent PR for WELL's mission. Also, in view of the fact that the project will provide its own bookkeeping, management, and be an independent contractor, we approved making this a WELL project without any percentage fee. Mary signed the required paperwork.

8. Bylaw Changes: Madge noted that, in addition to the changes as distributed, she would like to have required notice-of-meetings all consistent at two weeks, and add a sentence to Section 4.1 so that 3 or 4 CC members are elected at each semi-annual meeting. There was discussion about whether the revised quorum and percent approval for CC actions was sufficient to safeguard against rash decisions. Specifically, Tim pointed out that if there were only 6 members of the Coordinating Committee, then a quorum could be met by 4 members and a binding decision could be approved by only 3 members. In view of transparency and ability to appeal to general membership meeting if needed, most felt the new percentages were OK, and 6 of 7 voted for approval. A second motion was to change Section 4.12, re: emergency actions, to require 2 CC members (rather than only 1 officer) to act in emergency, and only after earnest effort to contact all CC members. That passed unanimously.

9. Opening song at Plenaries: Several people objected to "We Are the Ones". Since the song sets an important first impression, better to not have an opening song than the wrong one. We'll keep looking.

Next CC meeting will be Mar. 24 at noon, with Michael H. facilitating. Next plenary is that evening at 6:15, with Tim facilitating. (In notices, be sure to note the change to 6:15 and that the actual meeting starts at 6:30.)

TO DO LIST:

Liam: Set up seed grant applicants' interviews.

Contact Raj Patel re: speaker fee & schedule.

Publicize new staff position application process. Set up interviews.

Post info on proposed Bylaw changes and CC vacancy for members' consideration asap (before Mar. 24 plenary).

In PR for the Mar. 24 plenary, note the change to 6:15 and that the actual meeting starts at 6:30.

Michael H. Proceed as possible on new shelving.

NEXT MEETING ITEMS

CalTrans grant consultant selection

P.S. I just recalled that we have another strategy meeting scheduled Sun. March 30th, 1-4pm. When we set that date, we felt it allowed us time to develop some structure to the agenda (also to publicize it more effectively). Anyone working on that? If not (and considering that it's the day after Hina's workshop), should we consider postponing it?

Note: As of March 8 Liam received 4 written and 2 verbal votes from Coordinating Committee members to cancel the March 30th Strategic Planning Meeting.