

WELL Coordinating Committee Meeting, Oct. 13, 2008

Present: All CC members, Liam, Roger
Facilitated by Tim; Minutes by Madge

1. Minutes of Sept. 29 meeting were approved with a correction to delete reference to the Fire Dept. water use regarding the demo project at Jason's.

2a. Staff Report: Monique's report is in writing. Liam's is oral this time, due to spending the weekend preparing the newsletter. (Newsletter typically takes about 16 hours, not including folding & stuffing. He could always use help writing articles, but can't count on that.)

Liam was in Ukiah one day to help finalize a County-City MOU for a water catchment system at WISC. Goal is to eliminate all runoff to storm drain. Landscape design was done by John Sherman (City of Willits). Liam also was interviewed for about 2-1/2 hours for Sarah Gamble's thesis on sustainable projects in Mendocino County. He also consulted with a small SoCal Chamber of Commerce and worked on the City candidates' forum plans.

CC generally felt an oral report was OK this time, but usual practice should be to keep notes and submit very brief outline reports.

Other Reports:

2b. Tri-fold: Lynn Kennely (CofC) has been too busy to write a blurb, so we'll go to print with what we have.

2c. AV: WAG's sound system showed up. WAG/Grange should have a better check-out and return system!

2d. Food Security: No report.

2e. Ride-share: Now 26 members. Liam will test if system is working. Monique has been re-posting it periodically.

2f. Membership: Nothing new. Liam reports that about 175 members (of @ 310 total) have not yet renewed.

2g. Harvest Fest: We should receive about \$600-700 for our share.

2h. Transportation: Liam wrote article (Part 1) for newsletter. Several members said it was excellent.

2i. Fund appeal: We deposited about \$1,200 last week, with more coming in currently. Some of that is membership renewals.

3. WELL Election & Plenary: Liam noted only two candidates have yet submitted their statements. Others wishing to run should get them in asap. We agreed the CC election, with short intros from the candidates, should precede the guest speaker regarding land trusts at the Plenary. Jane will facilitate. Liam and Jason (or other non-candidates) will count the votes.

4. Ads in the Newsletter: Michael S. proposed this (and other ideas) for raising funds. It's noted ad income can't exceed 1/3 of income for 501c3's. Goal is to cover Liam's time (say \$300 per month). Keep to local businesses, using

Local First's definition. CC passes a motion approving the idea of ads/listings subject to details developed by a subcommittee (Mike S., Jane, Roger, Liam). Their proposal could be OKd by email unless CC members request it be brought to discuss at a meeting.

5. Candidates' Forum: The committee (Liam, AAUW, TWN) decided the first 1-1/2 hours will be pre-selected questions; the last portion will be questions from audience submitted on 3x5 cards. Liam requests help on set-up and tear-down. Channel 3 will do live feed; KZYX will record and play excerpts.

6. Finances/Options: Madge presented projection of 5 options, ranging from no office-no staff to keep office-1/2 time staff. There was extensive discussion, including pros and cons of closing the office or moving to basement of Carnegie building or sharing with WAG. Several noted that prospects for grants, including WGF, are slimmer now. (Jason & Brian did a last-minute addendum to our WGF application, hopefully improving our chances. It's acknowledged that it should have been sent asap to CC.) It's also noted that we did not do long-term planning to anticipate this crunch or have a back-up plan. The new CC will need to strategize: will our main support come from grants, ads, services?

CC approves a short-term plan following Option D (keeping the office), with Liam at ¼ time and discontinuing Monique's paid time, until Jan. 1, with the new CC deciding by Dec. 1 whether to give notice on continuing the current office. We also agreed to discontinue Mayacama cleaning service and look for other ways to minimize expenses. Liam & Monique should keep track of extra hours they work to credit as in-kind donations. The CC also asks Liam to concentrate his tasks on newsletter and administration, limiting walk-ins and referring phone questions to CC members. Jason will check with WAG about possible office-sharing; then Tim will check with City about Carnegie.

It's suggested we have a subcommittee to look at transitions needed now to January. This is pending.

7. Subcommittees: Mary's suggested list was revised as follows: Under Funding, add #5. "Seeking earned income possibilities (e.g. ads, enterprises)." Change to Oversight/Strategy and add #4. "meet at beginning of each new CC year to develop strategy and track progress through the year." Delete separate "Grain/Beans Enterprise". Add food to issue areas, i.e. "Food, Water, Transportation, Energy." This modified policy was adopted 6-1, with Tim opposed, feeling there has been inadequate discussion of strategy and that it should wait for the next CC.

8. CC Responsibilities: This is adopted 6-0-1 (Tim abstaining) with addition to #1, that members attend CC meetings "or give advance notice if they are unable to attend or will be late."

9. Next CC Meeting: Tentatively set for Wedn. Nov. 5 noon with Jason facilitating, subject to change if needed after new CC is elected.