

WELL Coordinating Committee Minutes

Dec. 3, 2008, 9:00am, at the New Office

Present: CC members Mary Z., Richard J., Jane M., Roger W., Madge S.; and member Kimball Dodge.

RJ facilitating; minutes by Madge

For starters, Roger introduced a lemon; our job is to make lemonade!
We did not approve past minutes. (Do at next meeting!)

1. Mission Statement & Update Flyer: After discussion, we adopted a new Mission statement, as follows: "To foster the creation of a local, sustainable economy in the Willits area by helping residents learn valuable skills and take action, and by partnering with other organizations to share knowledge and support projects that build a thriving community."

We also agreed to add to the flyer the following sentence: "In the year 2009 our main focus will be on encouraging local food projects;" and to substitute a quote from Cyndee Logan in lieu of the one from Margie Handley.

Roger said he would finalize the format on the computer when Madge supplies the final copy to him.

2. January Event: Mary provided a draft idea for a public meeting focused on investment opportunities, especially for food-related projects. Several others felt this would be premature; investment proposals take a great deal of time & effort before "flying" them to the public. Perhaps a local mutual fund, with a trusted expert board to review investments, would be a future possibility on which we could begin a dialog. (Potential enterprises might include water treatment; solar equipment; food processing tools or products, etc.) Jane & Jed Diamond should keep this idea percolating.

The consensus is our January event should promote our "2009 year of food abundance" focus. Possible a guest such as Jessica Prentiss, or a variety of presentations on current & new projects: grain buyers club; Grange kitchen; plans for a "youth food summit"; victory gardens, etc. (See updates below.)

Volunteers to plan this Jan. event include: Mary, Roger (& Jason is suggested - not present to object). Probably 4th Monday of January, but check schedule not to be too close to Sip Some Soup.

There is unanimity to stop calling meetings "plenaries". All meeting should be open to general public as well as our members.

3. Transition Town: RJ notes that the book & website offer useful tools. We had previously OK'd buying a copy of the book ("The Transition Handbook", \$24.95 + tax.). However, I just checked with Leaves of Grass & we haven't done so yet, though they have an available copy. Mary & RJ both have copies already. Shall we buy a third one to share?

As to the website, both RJ & Roger were unable to sign up for a Willits branch. RJ & others were concerned about a WELL reference on the Transition

Town website that was set up by a non-Willits person. Roger will check on that. The sense was to keep our identity as WELL but use TT as a resource.

4. New Office Set-up: The arrangement may need improvements as we settle in. Note that WAG is allowing us two large shelves in the closet. Roger may build a shelf for our printer to free up desktop space.

Madge will record our phone greeting & choose an access password (see separate email). Roger will take the first shift (2 weeks) checking & routing messages and emails to appropriate people; he'll also draft a matrix to use in routing calls and check the potential of a program ("bug zero") that tracks messages & responses.

Madge will check with Monique about her preferred hours at the office & making sure those don't conflict with WAG.

Year-end financial reports will be reviewed at a future CC meeting.

5. Donor Appeal Letter: In view of the move & general overwhelm of December, we decide to wait until mid-January to send out the appeal letter. (Madge will organize the printing and a mailing party.) Meanwhile, we'll put out an email inviting those who wish to make a tax-deductible gift in '08 to do so.

6. Other items:

a. Signature cards: Mary apologizes for delay; cards should be ready to collect signatures this week, with Jason, Mary, Annie & Monique as signers.

b. Grange Kitchen: Roger shows initial design ideas for this project, though he thinks it needs a bigger budget (say \$200,000 instead of \$50 or 60K). It's suggested the planning group meet at the Senior Center to check out their well-designed kitchen. (Maybe Golden Rule's kitchen is another model.)

c. Grain Buying Club: Madge gives a report on how this project is moving ahead, with a gung-ho planning team. Cyndee & Patti have already been collecting names of interested people at Farmers' Market. Besides individual families, we'll be looking at participation with Food Bank, Mariposa, schools, restaurants, senior center etc. This project should be covered in our next newsletter.

d. Miscellany: It's noted Liam is writing an article on WELL projects for the Nickel & Dime. RJ reports he & Annie are still trying to connect with Becky Bowles on films & other youth outreach at the High School.

Next Meeting: Wedn. Dec. 17, 9:30. Jane will facilitate.

(Will Liam or Roger post an announcement of this meeting to our list? Along with the donor invite in item 5 above and any other timely announcements?)