

## WELL Coordinating Committee Meeting, June 10, 2009

Present: All CC Members (Jason, RJ, Annie, Roger, Kimbal, Jane, & Madge); plus Monique and Harry Maurer.

Facilitator: Jason; Minutes: Madge

(We forgot to approve previous minutes; do both 5/20 and 6/10 at next meeting.) Several items were added to the draft agenda, included below.

1. **Grant for Cooking Classes:** Annie plans to teach these classes (either at Grange or another kitchen) which will include using granary and garden ingredients. CC approved serving as a cosponsor on the NCO grant application (we'll be responsible for posting flyers).

2. **July 25 Farm Tour Plans:** Farms are confirmed as follows: (a) Willits High Farm, 2:30; (b) WISC Community Garden, 3:30; (c) Green Uprising, 4:30; and Brookside Farm, 5:30. Meet at 2:15 at Brookside to drop off potluck items and to carpool. Potluck following last tour will begin approx. 6:15. Speakers will include Tom Allman & new gardener at the County jail, and possibly a rep from SOLE (MegaMall opposition). Speakers and music will be at approx. 6:45, as folks are near the end of their picnic meal. Madge will bring PA system, lead Garden Song sing-along and invite Voices 3. We'll also have a silent auction of posters from Ron Greystar. Jane & Kimbal will handle logistics of the picnic - table set up, table wares, donations at the gate, etc.

Madge is coordinating PR: CC decides that posters will use the Uncle Sam victory garden graphic. Allow time for Marilyn to design and Henry Daikin to print; hopefully ready for use in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Also have ¼ sheet handouts. Print PR will include short descriptions of each farm.

3. **Website Update:** Volunteer web designer Harry Maurer explains the features of the new website and receives major accolades for a great job! He or Roger will do an article for the next newsletter. Site includes Willits weather, calendar, a mini-slide show on homepage, and links to latest newsletter, lots of historic stuff, blogs & videos. Will include "tags" and/or "search engine optimization" to facilitate finding things.

Any CC members can be authorized to edit, but structural changes (if any) will be Harry's bailiwick. Contact Harry at 456-1095 or brainbelly@gmail.com.

CC votes to "go live" with the new site replacing the old, and to give Harry free ad space, membership, and a plug in the newsletter article (plus letter-to-ed in TWN and N&D) for his work.

Still unresolved is idea of our site serving as community-wide calendar, since the Chamber of Commerce calendar is neglected. It would require a site monitor: maybe consider this step later.

4. **Review of To Do List:** Most items are completed or covered elsewhere on the agenda. Relevant items are:

- RJ has become point-person for June.
- Willits Flea Market is up for approval at June 24 City Council; our insurance coverage is confirmed, with documentation by next week.
- June 6 Red Wagon project turned into potato planting, with several volunteers planting ½ acre; the other ½ acre awaits deer-resistant crops (e.g. leeks, garlic). Annie or ? do write-up for next newsletter?
- Check-signing still stymied at Bank; Madge will try to help Mo on this.
- Grant-writing guild on indefinite back-burner.

5. **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade:** Kimbal volunteered to be point person. This should be promoted in email update(s). Ideas include stilt walkers, red wagons, Uncle Sam outfits, plus farmers, fruits & veggies. Have our WELL banner plus the Uncle Sam posters for the July 25 farm tour. Mo will submit our entry application.

6. **Tabling Update:** Kimbal reports we got 4 new members at the June 6 Brooktrails Flea Market, and at least 1 from Farmers Markets. All are getting good recognition for us. Coming up will be June 26 Hometown Celebration. Another big benefit of this outreach is involving those who've volunteered!

7. **Harvest Festival Plans:** The feast is set for Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, with speaker Michael Bromley of Transition Towns. (Also invite SOLE.) Annie is looking for sources of wild turkey and venison. Grange master Erika wants to have Sat. workshops, but so far no leader is taking this on. (Maybe Mary Z? Or have farming films?) Put a call for volunteers in next newsletter; if no action by Aug., cancel the Sat. event.

8. **Bike/Pedestrian Plans:** Tonight at City Council will be hearing on W. Commercial & Central Ave. plans (rushing to get stimulus funding). The June newsletter gave nice coverage to the pedestrian-friendly alternative proposal. This could be tangible start to implementing the Bike/Ped Specific Plan, which had over 40 people attending the staff's workshop last week. Note that walkers spend money in town, so pedestrian improvements could recoup the investment.

9. **Finances:** Mo discovered 5 uncashed checks from '07 (to schools for Mayor's water program and to David Lisle for piano at RLNC). CC votes to void the checks, and offer David Lisle free membership in lieu of his check.

10. **Storage Unit:** Kimbal inventoried the unit and recommends we distribute items and close it. (Annie will take chairs; Michael H., Roger or Madge take shelves; Jason take books & plywood; office supplies & files to our office.) Kimbal will follow up on these tasks.

11. **Contra Dance:** Roger sadly reports that, absent more volunteers and dancers (need at least 44 to break even), the dances will end in August.

12. **Gleaners:** Looks like an abundant year. Kimbal will ask Karen for an article for July newsletter.

13. **Membership Change:** We previously decided to offer non-voting memberships to out-of-Willits folks. Madge to see if that requires a By-laws change. We also raised basic membership to \$15/year. When we send renewal/fund appeal in Sept., Madge intends to offer sliding scale (\$15-25 individual, \$25-50 family), and self-determined pro-rate for recent members.

14. **Mendo Time Banking:** This is so far mostly happening in Ukiah (David Smith & others initiating it, with a website connecting folks to trade hours). Some concern voiced that we not spread our volunteer resources thin, keeping focus on MFF credits & other current projects. But OK to include info in newsletter, esp. if promoted by a Willits member (Annie will ask Kitty Norris).

15. **Next Meetings:** July 8<sup>th</sup> already set, with Annie facilitating. The following meeting is set for July 29<sup>th</sup> with Roger facilitating.