

WELL Coordinating Committee Meeting, July 8, 2009

10am at the Library

Facilitator: Ann Weller; Minutes: Madge Strong

Present: CC members Ann, Roger, Madge, Jane, Richard, Kimbal (Jason absent); guests Monique Owen; Mair Alight; Jed Diamond; Pat Norris; and Peter Dal Poggetto.

Minutes of May 20 and June 10 meetings were approved.

Next meeting will be July 29, 10:30am at the Library, Roger facilitating.

Point persons were assigned: Roger for July; Kimbal for August; Jane for Sept. Later it was noted that point persons should handle email updates for timely reminders between newsletters (keep them brief), and be sure requests are answered, with emails to CC for info only unless specified for action.

Measure A: After discussion regarding issues raised by the initiative process and the DDR Masonite rezoning, the CC approved (5-0-1) a motion to oppose Measure A, with a letter to be written to Willits City Council (for their possible agenda item on July 22) with a copy to TWN, based on our previous position and stressing what we are FOR (maintaining industrial use zoning at this suitable site, and local planning and environmental review process). The No on Measure A petitions and literature will be at our WELL tabling.

WHAT Walk 350: Jed Diamond noted that the next WHAT walk, on Oct. 24, will coincide with an International Day of Climate Action, calling for reducing carbon levels to 350 ppm (which most scientists agree is needed to avert drastic global impacts). WHAT is seeking local organizations to co-sponsor, which will involve being listed and seeking walkers in advance. The CC voted unanimously to co-sponsor. (This can be announced and sign-ups available at our upcoming events, as well as our tabling and in newsletter.)

Internat'l Day of Empathic Action (IDEA): Mair Alight introduced an idea of having local actions or activities (yet to be developed) on Oct. 2 in support of this effort, with a goal of world peace in 5 years. It's noted that is the same day as our Harvest Feast, and some questioned how in line with WELL's mission this is. Mair may bring a more specific proposal to next CC meeting. In any case, such community announcements can always be made at our events.

Farm Tour: Plans were reviewed and some details brain-stormed (e.g shade, garbage & recycling, coolers & drinks, tables). Jane & Kimbal are coordinating picnic logistics. Specific tasks are listed in the "To Do" list.

Harvest Festival: Ann says plans for the dinner are coming together, with a Mediterranean theme, simpler (but elegant) menu of a meat & vegetarian main course, rice & other granary products. Might also include some wild food tasting

(it's suggested to contact Sue Morgain for leads for hunted meat). Also will probably have Frey wine for sale.

Dinner tickets will be advance sale only (at Leaves of Grass, JD Redhouse, possibly the Bridal shop) with limit of 150. It's suggested some (maybe 10) be set aside as comps in exchange for volunteer hours at farms, to enable lower income folks to come.

Potential workshops on Sat., Oct. 3 are still up-in-the-air, with no one volunteering to organize that. Possibly include a call in the July newsletter, with folks to contact Erica (if she's willing). If not, it will just be the feast.

Office & Newsletter details: A letter from "Accountancy Corp" sounds like an expensive promo we will pass on. Jason still needs to sign at the bank.

A note from a member objecting to paying extra for mailed newsletters spurred some discussion: consensus is that (a) email is encouraged IF people have email; and (b) if not, donating extra to cover our costs is encouraged but not required. We don't want to discourage members from getting the newsletter! Mo will contact that member. (Roger says, focus on ways to raise sufficient funds rather than pinching pennies.)

Consensus is it's OK to include a notice in newsletter from Sarah (Green Uprising) of dairy shares being available for their CSA.

It's requested that the costs and ad revenues of the newsletter be evaluated and discussed at next CC meeting.

It's also suggested the MendoBB be sent a short version of the newsletter – just upcoming events info and a website link – rather than the whole thing, as most people are likely to skip reading it. Roger will ask Liam about doing that.

And the CC greatly appreciated a \$500 donation made this week by a very supportive member!

Miscellany & Announcements:

Hoorah for the Grange receiving a USDA grant that now provides enough funds for the commercial kitchen project!

An eye-opening website is usdebtclock.org, showing mounting numbers by the second. RJ suggests it be noted in newsletter.

Note that July 11 is Peak Oil Day: do something special – hike, bike, solar bake, or just pay attention! Maybe next year we should organize something.

Kimbal will coordinate this month's newsletter mailing. (Mo will prepare labels.)