

WELL Coordinating Committee Meeting, April 14, 2010

Facilitator: Janice Gendreau; Minutes: Madge

Present: All CC except Holly; plus guests Mason Giem, Monique Owen, Harry Maurer, and (briefly) Antonia Partridge

1. March 10 CC Minutes are approved.
2. **Red Wagon Project:** A thought is trying to schedule some house visits in advance, either by leafleting and/or publicity in TWN, Nickel & Dime, PSA's, WELL newsletter, etc. However, door-to-door will still be effective, leaving literature & invitation for future planting days where people aren't home. Dee will begin lining up plants & seeds and volunteers. (Dee & Janice, write up promos & design flyer. Madge can assist on info packets.) Kick-off date set for May 22. (I assume 10am starting time, meeting at the Grange?)

A somewhat related idea is a "welcome wagon" info basket for new residents coming to Willits. Jane & Janice will begin exploring this, in conjunction with Chamber of Commerce and local realtors/property managers.

Unfortunately, the item on WELL participation on the May 6 "May Day" event at first outdoor Farmers Market got over-looked; follow up by email.
3. **Mar. 21 WELL Meeting Review:** We agree it went very well, including more young participants. Janice will do a report in next newsletter (with help from Pat & others). Also include a report on Mason's Mar. 6 garden workshop in the newsletter.
4. **Grange Kitchen & Supervisor Training:** Jane, Richard, Madge, Dee & Kimbal are all now trained to use the kitchen.

Kimbal & Jane are trained & authorized to supervise (open & close) for events in the great hall.

WELL should continue to coordinate closely with Grange – very similar goals – including covering events in newsletter.
5. **Database & Office:** Roger researched the program we need to merge our data systems; Madge is waiting for him to schedule time to install it.

Monique reports we have \$2,200 in checking and \$1,836 in savings. Approx. \$500 additional has been received from the fund appeal/renewals.

It's suggested we do better at orienting new CC members, including a binder with relevant background. (Madge, Jane, Mo – in our spare time?)
6. **Grant Updates:** After reviewing with Wolfgang, Janice determined it would not be possible to sponsor his grant proposal under WELL, referring him instead to Sheriff's funding.

An email this morning from new member Laura Roland offers her help on new grant prospects. Jane will talk with her, followed up by Janice when she's back from vacation (Apr. 25) & after newsletter crunch. Madge will try to locate past grant

submissions. Columbia Foundation now offers support for food sustainability. Some ideas for what we could fund:

- Umbrella coordination for County-wide sustainability &/or eco-tourism programs;
- Land to work (e.g. Farmlink in Sonoma County); and
- Renewed local seed grants.

Perhaps grants could fund Mason continuing his work in Willits.

7. **Speaker Events:** Michael Brownlee of Transition Town Boulder is available, and we decide to schedule that event for Sat. May 15 (instead of a Sunday potluck). Janice will check on Grange availability [note: it's OK]. Mo will write checks next week for rent & deposit.

Annie & RJ have offered to accommodate Michael. CC will host a dinner with him to get more info on ideas useful for WELL. Boulder is small, like Willits, and promotes County-wide programs.

Frances Moore Lappe, or her daughter Anna, might be speakers in 2011, but may expect a substantial honorarium. Janice will ask.

8. **Contra Dance:** This is planned for June 12, 7pm at the Grange. Rent is \$120; security deposit (could hold the same check) is \$125.

9. **Community Yard Sale:** Janice & Jane say City Mgr Paul Caylor is very supportive (with caveat of nothing illegal), but one concern is cost of security; hopefully by volunteers, not paid police. Tentative date is Sept. 19. This could be dove-tailed with Harvest Fest, with free booths for non-profits. (Janice to ask Karina if Grange wants to do Harvest Fest; the Dinner is already planned for Sept. 24.) Also consider special kids' activities.

Janice will outline this at next CC. WELL would make money from booth rentals and sale of drinks. Food concessions could be by Nuestra Alianza &/or others. The Frontier Day site could accommodate up to 100 booths.

10. **Farm & Garden Tour:** Set for July 31. Madge will lead with help from Kimbal, Richard. Janice determined bus is impractical. Encourage carpools and staggered farm visit times. As before, consider potluck at end of day.

Madge suggests we invite farmer participants to schedule training/work days in the week before & after the tour and promote this beyond Willits, as a start on the "eco-tourism" ideas from Bill Bruneau & Jay Gordon.

11. **Power Point & WELL Spokesperson:** Madge will check with Annie re: past power point materials and, hopefully, get an updated version to then schedule presentations to community groups. Madge (with Jane as alternate) agree to be spokespersons to folks requesting info about WELL.

12. **Volunteer Farmers' Housing:** Mason requests help housing visiting farm volunteers. Several folks are willing; preferably in town. Mason will write a blurb for the newsletter.

13. **Publicity for Events:** Madge willing to continue sending PSAs to TWN, Nickel & Dime, KZYX, Channel 3. Also add notice to Chamber of Commerce calendar. She'll do a new "upcoming events" insert and email update on numerous activities. (Include Apr. 22 Forum re: Caltrans Bypass, and Apr. 29 Candidates' Food & Farm Forum.)

14. **Redwood Ave. Park Update:** It appears there's a good resolution that will come to City Council soon. We set a work party for May 1, and CC approves allocating \$50 toward cost of materials for the fence.

15. **Chamber of Commerce Brown Bag Lunch:** Jane signs up to go to this on Apr. 21, to bring WELL presence to folks.

16. **Next CC May 12:** Richard will facilitate.