

WELL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING, Oct. 13, 2010

Present: All CC members except Holly; Guests Pat Norris, Harry Maurer, Mason Giem, and Mary Zellachild
Richard Hincker facilitator; Madge minutes

(Due to some participants arriving late or leaving early and some overlapping items, these minutes won't necessarily be in the order discussed.)

1. **Minutes of Sept. 8** were briefly reviewed and approved as submitted.
2. **Community Meeting/Health Forum Oct. 17:** Pat reviewed the plans and we discussed some logistics. Volunteers should arrive at 3:30 to help set up tables for the potluck and "theater style" seating at the stage end of the room for the forum. We should have a table for donations at the door and to determine who's eligible to vote. Potluck will start at about 4:15, we'll have community announcements and intro of candidates and election of CC as folks are near end of meal, and then move to the audience seating for the forum presentations (possibly about 5:30).

Regarding the CC election, we have several candidates that we know of: Holly, Madge & Kimbal running for reelection; and Laura Rowland and Bill White definitely running, and possibly Peter Norris interested. Given that, Dee has requested to resign, which opens up a fifth "seat" at this election.

3. **Brooktrails Community Garden:** Mason has met with Brooktrails director Mike Chapman and has good prospects for setting up a community garden near the redwood park, with good soil, sunlight, and access to treated water. They hope to put out a notice with one of the water bills for a community planning meeting, then fundraise for fencing and other needed improvements. CC members expressed strong support; Mason will develop a specific proposal for WELL to help fund this project at a future meeting.

On a related subject, Pat mentions that Peter Norris hopes to get Brooktrails working to solarize water pumping

4. **"Self Reliant Willits" Upcoming Activities Posters:** Mary Z. is eager to put together posters (inspired by the recent Coast Transition posters for 10/10/10 events) that would broaden outreach, using WELL's "Updates" and contacts with other groups, including Transition, Grange, Local First, WHAT, etc. The CC approves this idea, Madge offers to be WELL's liaison, and Mary will look into costs for printing (Lynn Dee or others).

This concept may dovetail with also broadening the newsletter to be a collaboration with similar groups. See item below.

- 5, **Newsletter:** Janice will likely be moving at the end of the month but could do a final newsletter if we provide most of the articles before Oct. 28 and if others take care of the email and snail mailing. (Thank you, Janice!) One item will be a

notice that we're looking for a new editor, limited paid hours bi-monthly. (Jennifer Poole is one potential candidate for that position.) Jed could write about his economics for hard times workshops. Pat will write something about the health forum, Madge re: CC notes, etc. Kate (Mason's partner) is writing articles for NCO and Garden Project blog that could be included.

We also discussed the idea of an umbrella of groups (Grange, WAG, Transition, Chamber of Commerce, etc.) collaborating in putting out a combined newsletter. Jane will contact Lynn Kennely, Kimbal will follow up with Grange and talk with Cyndee & Patti at WAG. It would be ideal to launch that all at once, and to have a similar title (e.g. "Self-Reliant Willits") and graphics as Mary's posters.

6. **Willits Creek Trail:** Janice reports that the item on the Brooktrails agenda (that would have allocated \$6,000 for a consultant to negotiate with private land-owners and get this project on the drawing board) was pulled off for unknown reasons. WELL has allocated \$1,000 to this effort. With Janice leaving, we need someone to "bird-dog" this important item, which could also be a great candidate for future grant funding.

7. **Next Community Meeting:** We set a tentative date of Jan. 23 for next community meeting. Themes might be water (Quinton & others) and/or energy (REDI & others). We have time to develop agenda ideas in next CC meetings.

8. **"Retreat/Advance" Meeting:** We chose two possible dates – Nov. 7 or Nov. 21. Kimbal later discovered that Nov. 7 is the Voices 3 concert, so we hope Nov. 21 will work. Kimbal will contact a potential facilitator for this meeting, possibly Carlin, Cyndee, or Freddie. Tentatively we'd start at 1:30, have a potluck dinner, go til evening. Location yet to be determined.

This meeting would include recent past & current CC, other key activists (e.g. Pat, Harry, Mason, etc.) and key people from Willits Transition training. Goals would be reviewing WELL's mission, how WELL and Transition interact to be most effective, and brainstorming future plans. (One idea is a community forum, inviting all groups to participate and share ideas, with free food & music.)

9. **Using the \$10,000 Gift:** We're not ready to allocate a specific budget to "seed grants" yet, but would like to begin soliciting project ideas. Janice will write up a notice to this effect for the newsletter. This could be one topic for the Retreat Meeting. We might find a larger project that could also qualify for Community Foundation or other grant funds, in lieu of many smaller projects.

10. **Miscellaneous Items:**

a. **Flea Market template:** Janice has a binder with all the info on organizing this event, if we decide to try again next year. Key challenge is picking a date – after 4th of July and before Fall rain.

b. **Farmers Market:** Kimbal is retiring from this weekly tabling. We can decide to rotate duties, or perhaps have another booth carry our flyers.

- c. **Hometown Celebration:** (Afterthought from the meeting) Kimbal will sign us up for a table and recruit volunteers for this event Oct. 22.
- d. **Financial Review** and 2011 Budget are postponed to next CC meeting.
- e. **Handling Emails:** CC authorizes Monique to spend up to 1 extra hour per week (usually less) to handle emails; if she has to miss a week, she should contact Kimbal to fill in.
- f. **Computer Update:** (Postscript) Roger spent considerable time this week with Mo & Madge developing instructions so we can now use our master database to send emails and print mailing labels. (Yay!)
- g. **Fund Appeal/Renewal Letter:** Madge will draft a letter for CC review and then organize a mailing party some time in the next few weeks.
- h. **Richard** will have heart surgery in early December and not able to help much for at least a month thereafter.

11. **Next CC Meetings:** In view of new CC members likely to be elected on Oct. 17, we'll try rescheduling future CC meetings to Monday evenings, with next meetings tentatively Oct. 25, 6:30, and Nov. 15, 6:30. We did not yet select facilitators for these meetings.