

WELL CoCom Minutes, Feb. 7, 2011

Present: All CC plus Jennifer and Pat

Facilitator: Laura; Minutes: Madge

1. Minutes of Jan. 10 meeting are approved.
2. **Use of Gift Funds:** We discussed at length the merits of the many proposals we received for the allocation of our \$10,000 gift. We also considered the advantage of reserving some portion of the funds for future needs. We finally agreed on the following:
 - \$3,500 to Michael Foley for leasing land, fencing, and water systems to establish a Willits Intervale farmer training program.
 - \$2,000 to Antonia Partridge for Brookside Farm interns and/or CSA share (s) to the schools;
 - \$1,000 to Mason Giem for tools and supplies for the new Brooktrails Community Garden; and
 - \$500 to Bill Bruneau to develop a detailed business plan and possibly begin web design for a skills-teaching, web-based Eco-College.
 - \$1,000 was previously allocated to hiring a consultant to negotiate toward achieving a Willits Creek trail. (See below.)

These allocations would leave \$2,000 of the gift funds for potential future projects.

Various CC members will contact both the grantees and those who submitted other excellent ideas we were not able to fund at this time. (We hope some of these can proceed through other means.) Holly & Madge will draft a letter to formalize these “seed grants” and ask for status reports on what is accomplished.

3. **Willits Creek Trail:** We should hear on approx. Feb. 12 whether our grant request for negotiating this trail has been funded. In addition to this possible grant and our own \$1,000, both Rotary Club and Willits Environmental Center want to participate. Bob Whitney has also offered to negotiate gratis. There are questions about possible limited vs. public access; how to avoid past frictions; and who is “in charge” (neither City nor Brooktrails has jurisdiction). If we can help get this to happen, it would be a great accomplishment! Once an accord is reached with landowners, the trail itself would require further grant funding.

4. **Further Meeting Ideas:** Bill is eager to bring Paul Cienfuegos (from Humboldt) here to talk about “move to amend” to end corporate personhood. It may be better to schedule this independently, since our WELL meetings are already booked up til September.

We were also contacted by Rachel Kaplan, who wants to speak about her book on Urban Homesteading. Laura will respond and suggest she contact Book Juggler, possibly present at the Library. We can help publicize both of these events without sponsoring them.

5. **Power Point/Outreach:** Thanks to Laura's help and many photo contributors, the show is complete. Madge presented at our Jan. meeting (& will do a short intro at future meetings) as well as scheduling for Soroptomists, Rotary, and other groups.
6. **Fund Appeal Letter:** Comment by email. Madge will schedule a mailing party later this month.
7. **Feb. 27 Swap Meet:** Plans are in order, with Jed facilitating, Cate O. designing poster, Madge doing PR. The CC approves allocating approx. \$30 per event for Cate's graphics work, then cost for Printing Plus for color copies.
8. **Next CC Meeting:** Mar. 14, Kimbal will facilitate.

Items not covered, deferred for next meeting:

Brooktrails Report

Vision 2030 Report

Main Street Report

Also more on upcoming WELL community meetings, newsletter.