

CO-COM MINUTES – Dec. 18, 2017

Present: CoCom members Tim, Madge, Paul and Lyn; plus Emily Rose, John & Janice Haschak, Beth Riedel, and Pat Higgins
Facilitator, Paul; Notes, Madge

1. We began with introductions and a delicious holiday potluck. Then we reviewed and approved the minutes of Nov. 13.
2. Office Issues: Emily Rose gave an update on renewals. 4 of 10 potential ongoing advertisers have renewed so far. We could use a couple new ads (to replace Sanhedrin & Bountiful Gardens, which have gone out of business.) A handful of past 2015 & 2016 members renewed, and approx. ½ of the 2017 members have renewed so far. Madge will send a reminder this week; then we may need more follow-up in Jan. Janice suggests we encourage members to give gift memberships to their friends; pursue other ideas for new memberships. Due to her new baby (one-month old Alexander), Emily Rose will get to a year-end finance report for an upcoming CoCom meeting.

Re: the Hub, Madge explained that rent is covered through March, but after that commitments from the four sharing groups (us, WEC, ERRP, and MWA) will leave a shortfall of about \$400 per month. All groups will need to help on major fundraising. Advantages of having lease in WELL's name are: donations are tax-deductible, and our insurance can cover meetings at the Hub (instead of Ellen paying for an extra \$500/year policy). There is consensus on the idea of us being the Lessee, but concerns about accountability and protocols. Lyn agrees to look into details and appropriate assurances, maybe check with Marc Komer. Place this item on next agenda.

Tim notes that he has renewed our domain registration, to be paid through WELL's paypal. Paul mentions Charlottes Web may be cheaper in the future.

Pat Higgins suggests there could be lots of grant opportunities if we have a vision and projects consistent with our vision for Willits' future; a grant-writer could be paid for their work from the grant funding.

Paul would like curtains or blinds, especially for the north-east-facing window (car headlights are distracting). He'll ask Robin.

3. Event Planning: Madge provided an outline of a "Make Willits Thrive" event scheduled for Feb. 25. Paul suggested expanding to address loss of net neutrality, State removing local control over telecoms, and need for broadband; however others felt that issue deserved a whole program (maybe via the Grange) and was too much to add to this event. Madge will follow up with most potential presenters; Lyn will check with Janae; Paul with Pete Swanton; and John with Kemmy's Pies. To increase 'town hall' style public participation, maybe a prize for best ideas; keep notes of all ideas; revisit how to implement at CoCom.

We are hoping a Spring event will honor and feature perspectives from Dave & Jenny Watts, while also helping launch 1000 Sunflowers 2018 and educating about pollinators. Madge will follow up with the Watts.

Still to be explored: guest speaker (maybe Michael Yellowbird); summer energy or farm tour; non-profits forum, and mitigation update. Pat also had good ideas about potential projects in Willits, salmon-friendly streams, trails, using vacant places for public benefits, etc. Madge noted an idea that came from the Grange potluck, combining (better-located) farmers market with artisan shows.

4. Newsletter: It's noted that Neil Richardson is taking over lay-out work. Deadline for next edition is Jan. 2nd. Madge provided a draft of her 'new mayor's report' and mentioned other articles in the works.

5. Next CoCom meeting: Jan. 8, 6:30. We suggest Laura facilitates. Janice will be back-up if needed or will facilitate the next meeting (Feb. 12th).