

Greenhouse Action Group

Minutes: March 26, 2010

In Attendance: Jo Anne Skelly, Bonnie Parnell, Larry Rackley, Pam Graber, Karen Abowd

1. Karen reported on the Flower Basket status; Watering cost per Scott Fahrenbruch of Parks and Rec would be \$13.40/hr each for 2 persons x 14 hrs/week (based on 4 hrs of watering per day 7 days a week. Total cost per week = \$375.20. Karen reported that Scott had incorrectly budgeted for 24 weeks of watering when in fact watering would be from June 1 to Oct 1 (16 weeks) for a total of \$6,003.20. We have collected to date \$9,016 and owe NV's Own Perennials \$3,166. This leaves us with a balance of \$5,850 with two more \$225 pledged sponsorships due in the end of March. With this sponsorship we will have \$6,300 to pay for watering. Karen explained that Parks and Rec would hire the positions and that Ralph Marrone was having shoulder surgery and unable to help out this year. It was commented that with City layoffs this would at least provide some temporary employment or supplemental income for 2 persons. We are at 48 sponsored baskets for the 2010 campaign.
2. The Greenhouse Project status was reported:
Karen reported that the business plan was complete and a copy was shown to the group. Karen expressed her appreciation to Kathy Halbardier and Janette Bloom for all their efforts to make this happen. JoAnne Skelly requested a disk of the business plan for grant purposes and Karen said she would have Janette get that to her.

Karen stated that a copy of the business plan had been sent to the Mae and Hop Adams Foundation for future funding opportunities.

Karen mentioned that she had attended the Small Farm Conference in March and had connected with Carol Lucey of WNC and had given her a copy of the business plan. As a result Karen has a meeting scheduled with Dr Lucey the end of April to discuss details of an interface of WNC with TGP.

Grants were the next topic of discussion. Karen reported that she and Jenny Scanland met with Lee Plemmel and Janice Brod on the CDBG grant and that it appeared TGP could qualify under the job creations category. Funding amount guestimate was \$30,000 which could be used for anything pertaining to the greenhouse. Jenny was to turn in a 1 page report on March 29.

Karen reported that Jenny Scanland had submitted a Rec Trails grant app for the outside grounds. JoAnne asked how this would apply and Karen explained that it would be for the bathroom needed as well as the pathways, fruit trees etc.

Karen stated that the Healthy Nevada Grant part 2 was submitted but had no other information yet on that one.

It was reported that the Community Support Services Grant appeal was denied.

TGP did receive a grant from Community Youth for the ground source heat pump. The amount whether \$15 or \$20,000 was as yet unclear.

JoAnne Skelly reported on the other grants as suggested by Molly Walt and JoAnne felt we did not meet the qualifications.

Jenny Scanland was unable to attend the meeting so information on the additional grant she was looking into was unavailable.

Karen talked about the upcoming fundraisers:

A concert with the Sons of Chaplain along with a silent and live auction was scheduled for July 15 in the Adele's parking lot. Karen requested help with getting auction items. Pam Graber suggested a Chair-ity Auction where folks contribute a new or old chair that they have painted/decorated...a great indoor or outdoor item. Karen asked how we would get the word out that we were requesting this type of chair piece. The NV Appeal was one suggestion and the art dept at WNC was another as well as some sort of advertising at the Spring Farmer's Market. Radio advertising on the X or My Country was another suggestion. It was decided that at the next meeting this would be decided. Karen said she would email the action group about accessing auction items. For some auction items JoAnne Skelly said she would offer garden consultation services and Pam Graber said her daughter Robin would do massage services.

Karen said that the Purple Avocado would coordinate with Tahoe Ridge Winery and Karen would talk to Molly's Gourmet Catering for food for the concert/auction venue.

Karen said that at the April meeting committees needed to be formed to take on the various aspects of the event.

It was agreed that the Celebrity Chef Dinner should be the end of September.

Karen reported that all the big name chefs did not respond so her husband was getting in touch with Nancy Horn of Dish Cafe in Reno about coordinating with him on a dinner of all locally raised organic foods. Edible Reno had just featured her restaurant and for a harvest venue seemed like a great fit for TGP.

As far as other business...Larry Rackley was introduced by Pam Graber who will be our solar energy helper to assist in our understanding of what and how to use alternative energy. Karen was going to put he and Mark Lopiccolo in touch. Larry thought since our site is in a flood plain we should think about a well ground source heat pump.

Pam Graber reported she was including TGP in her article for Public Health Week which is April 5 - 11. The article would be about a healthy America one community at a time.

3. The next meeting was announced for April 30 at noon at the CC Library and the meeting was adjourned.