

The Greenhouse Project Action Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday 1/28/21

2:30-3:40 PM via conference call; Participants dialed 425-436-6326 Access Code 299827

- 1) In attendance—Karen Abowd, JoAnne Skelly, Arnold Carbone, Millie Karol, Jo Kilpatrick, Karel Ancona, Jon Ruiter, Cheryl Rotter, Rebecca (CHS AG instructor), Will Pierz, Cory King, June James, Lydia Pearson.
- 2) Vicki Crabb emailed the Treasurers Report due to work schedule conflict. Operating \$65,342.13; Savings \$49,398.85; CTH \$10,749.76 and she had invoiced CTH for the annual contract amount of \$69,000; Outdoor Classroom Building Fund \$19,381.67 and security estimates not yet received which will be paid for from these funds. She also reported that for the 2021 Flower Basket sponsorships \$12,780 had been received.
- 3) MaskurAid Ball net proceeds was confirmed by Exec Director Jon Ruiter at \$32,000. As far as what worked and did not for that event Karen commented that having the wine donated with the additional \$700 cost for liability insurance was not worth it. Having the event at a facility like Cucina Lupo really did not require that extra insurance cost and buying wine at Costco would have been more cost effective. Cheryl commented that she developed a form for folks who make Angel Donations at the event to fill out so we can contact them and thank them and provide them a letter of donation. All else about the event including to go orders was terrific.
- 4) Jon Ruiter continued the discussion about the Flower Basket Sponsor Campaign commenting that 70-74 baskets were sponsored but he needed about 6 more new contacts. Karen provided 3. He was still trying to touch base with a few former sponsors that had not responded. Karen commented with monies received thus far that watering cost was covered at \$11,400.00. Cory had difficulty with getting petunia seed initially so ordered from another source and then did get seed from original source so has plenty of flower seed. Jon suggested we not make Feb 1 a hard deadline, but he does hope to wrap this up by Feb 15. Cheryl reminded all that baskets can be to celebrate your kids and grandkids or in memory of and not just about businesses. Arnold added that seed shortage has hit the potato seed market as well and that Fillery Farms and Maine Potato Lady were his resources.
- 5) Karen began the discussion about the Sustainability/Legacy Giving Campaign commenting that Covid has refocused TGP Board thought process for the positive in terms of financial security in perpetuity. The Concert Under the Stars with how hard the entertainment industry has been hit is not feasible and in actuality because of the kindness of our sponsors who stayed with TGP last year because we had no expenses since it had to be cancelled made the most monies at \$65K. In a normal year with all the infrastructure cost \$45K is the most made from that event and a dinner event gleans that. The new campaign includes a profit component with the vermiculture program and nurse/contract crop program plus investment strategy and increased educational and business learning opportunity for students. Karen mentioned that in February she, Jon, Will and Cory would have a virtual meeting with Candi Ruf of CHS CTE. Karen asked Cory to get a cost of ½ drums for the vermiculture program. Will and Joanne brought forward issues that needed research on bulk product and food waste recycling as it relates to the Dept of AG and any GAP requirements that need including in the business plan/proposal to be presented to the schoolboard in June. Will and Cory will research this. Will said this could go to a true post grad internship program and also mentioned that vermicular compost could be less labor intensive. Arnold suggested that Cory and Will talk to Craig or Cody at Full Circle compost letting them

know we are not competing with them since they do not recycle food waste and get guidance. Arnold stated that the standards of identification for the worm industry come down to what you call the end product. Dayton Valley Aquaponics equipment from Greg Lehmann too expensive and not suited to TGP direction on this new project. Karen and Jon also relayed the great meeting they had with Superintendent Richard Stokes and Mark Korinek and recycling the school's food waste and expanding the program TGP already has going with So Juicy food waste for the vermiculture program were a highlight. Very supportive in TGP using the additional land behind the solar panels at CHS. Karen also mentioned to Jon Ruiter that the NV Energy Foundation application had to be submitted by February 15 as it was one of the 60 letters of Intent that she had emailed out with \$20K in commitments in only 3 days.

- 6) Cory reported that the perennials were planted for the Plant Sale and petunias will be planted this coming week. He will start early sales on Shopify and assign pick days the end of March or early April. Mother's Day would be the big sale in whatever format the virus restrictions allow. Last years system worked well. Both early and big sale could be promoted as a last push on KOLO.
- 7) Executive Director Jon Ruiter said KOLO Cares will go til April so both Plant Sale and Sustainability Campaign can be pushed but added that Denise Wong was totally supportive in airing any of TGP promotional efforts going forward. Jon let all know he and Karen submitted for a second round of PPP and had received confirmation of application. He also discussed the MOU signed with Northern NV Dream Center which will forward TGP gleaning program with their base of 280 volunteers which is all part of a 2 yr federal grant they applied for. Since we already donate produce to them and had donated gleaned fruit this season it is a win-win for TGP Gleaning Program.
- 8) Cory's Greenhouse manager update was incorporated into previous items discussed but he will contact Mark Korinek about weather proofing the Outdoor Classroom windows and putting a sweep on the garage door. Cory is fine tuning the AmeriCorps scheduling since they are back in school and will have two more high school students in Spring with one being a returning student, Rebecca Rhea. Plant Science and Greenhouse management students have been coming outworking on hydroponics system and plant sale plants. Cory has cukes planted in place of tomatoes to mitigate pest issue. After the plant sale he will push tomatoes in the greenhouse. Jon commented that he had heard from many folks how outstanding the GC grounds look.
- 9) Will gave the assistant managers update. He commented it is research season and will actively check regs on compost as well as high value nursery plants and rules for selling. Actively looking at clumping grasses, rosemary, oregano and thyme plants that are low maintenance and command high dollar. Also, he will explore nursery rules. He is currently coordinating volunteers, both new and returning, and working with AmeriCorps as well on scheduling. He had posted a 6-month schedule for virtual classes.
- 10) Rebecca from CHS AG dept said FFA will be virtual and state competition will be virtual as well. She has lots of freshman interested in Plant Science for next year which is a plus for TGP.
- 11) Feb 17 is deadline for newsletter and Will submitted classes and Jon the post on Sustainability/legacy Giving Campaign plus the 2020 Growing Highlights. Cheryl will develop a protocol for keeping bathrooms at GC clean and will have her husband help her find a sweep to put on bathroom doors to keep the leaves and dust out.
- 12) Next meeting February 25 at 2:30 PM at GC and /or via conference call.
- 13) Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.