

The Greenhouse Project Action Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 25, 2021

Via Conference Call; Participants dialed 425-436-6326 Access Code 299827

2:30-3:55 PM

1. In attendance—Millie Karol, Karen Abowd, Robin Graber, Karel Ancona, Vicki Crabb, JoAnne Skelly, Rebecca Glocknitver, Will Pierz, Cory King, Cheryl Rotter, Jon Ruiter, Lucy Joyce, Lisa Taylor, Charlie Mann.
2. Vicki Crab provided the Treasurer's report. Operating- \$73,942; CTH-\$77,249; Savings-\$49,400; Sustainability-\$25,200
3. Jon Ruiter gave 2021 update for Flower Basket Sponsorship Campaign. 73 renewed sponsorships, which includes 65 downtown and 8 business, with \$14,800 received. Cassinelli with NID approval of the downtown landscape maintenance contract in April has agreed to maintain the basket watering billing to TGP at \$11,400. Jon will get 9 new signs made coordinating with Tara Burke/Computer Graphics and Hannah Macintosh/Vital Signs. There are 70 downtown brackets available total and Cory always plants 80 baskets so those 5 extra brackets will promote TGP. The check for Cassinelli will be issued the end of April. Cheryl will contact Justin Tierney of CC Public Works about reinstalling 2 brackets taken down at McFadden Plaza and Jon will let Justin know where to move 1 bracket.
4. Greenhouse Manager Cory King lead the discussion on the upcoming Plant Sale. All merchandise will be on Shopify to include seeds, t-shirts, hats, and plants. Cold weather plants will be available for purchase via that site the first week of April. Pick up days will be Saturdays within a 4 hr window. Karen asked that Cory seek volunteers to help on pick up Saturdays. Promotion for this early Plant sale and the Mother's Day Plant Sale will be through Shopify and on social media as well. The Shopify link cgreenhouseproject.myshopify.com and there will be weekly sales through April. There will be a live sale the Friday and Saturday before Mothers' Day.
5. Shopify sales will extend through the end of May. JoAnne asked that Jon put the Plant Sale on the website.
6. Karen Abowd began The Sustainability/Legacy Fund update discussion. She discussed Legacy Giving and that it can start while a person is alive with monthly giving and continue after that individual has passed set up typically by a financial planner or attorney and can be monetary, material goods, property, stocks----anything that's of value to the beneficiary. The website layout was discussed that she and Cheryl Rotter had worked on with 3 categories of donation....Targeted Giving with menu of giving options provided; Monthly Giving accessed currently by clicking the Go Fund Me button; and the Sustainability/Endowment/Legacy Giving option which would be designated for TGP to invest. The goal for the latter is \$1 Million which invested can provide an annual dividend to TGP of \$80,000. Karel Ancona weighed in on donation button locations and proofreading content so that if the RAD Strategies Marketing Contract is board approved Cheryl and Karen can work forward with Ranele from that agency on March 15 to finalize website roll out. Jon Ruiter would interface with Len on what layout options work with TGP website format. JoAnne Skelly emphasized front website page access to donate to eliminate frustration of folks wanting to give. This roll out would be promoted in the April 17 and June 17 newsletter with a snapshot of this webpage and option menu. The Teaching Farm

to include Nursery Plants Program and Vermiculture/Vermicomposting Program has Mark Korinek engaged in navigating the NDEP process and the possibility of a variance. Current regs require 500' from the nearest development to sell compost but Mark is scheduling a site walk with the NDEP permit inspector to further the variance process. Mark will also work the numbers on the amount of food waste the CCSD produces. The plan is that all logistics are worked through for the June presentation to the CCSD board. Cory, Will, Jon and Mark continue to work together on details.

7. Executive Director update given by Jon Ruiter included the meeting he and Cory had with board member Lisa Taylor of Cooperative Extension on the Specialty Crop grant. Lisa had drafted a LOI that they all discussed with the final draft being signed by Jon and submitted March 1. This is a 3 yr. national grant that promotes expansion of specialty crops and the education of growing new things for the state which seems to fit the Nursery Plant/Teaching Farm proposed. Lisa got good feedback and so plans to help with the application submittal. Jon also reminded everyone to submit their volunteer hours for February.
8. Cory King provided a Greenhouse Manager's update. Production is beginning to ramp up. Cory continues to monitor the greenhouse health and conditions for plant seedlings and petunias. Things look healthy. He is planting different petunia plant varieties for the plant sale. He now has all the materials for the hoop house completion and feels it will be completed in a couple of weeks. He got word from Mark Johnson via the building inspector to clear out all materials under the solar panels. Karen asked that if volunteers are needed to help to put out the request. The new woodchipper was being modified for altitude by AG mechanic at CHS. The cheatgrass maintenance he is on top of. A good crew of 4 volunteers help out weekly at the main site. AmeriCorps needs are being met. Plant Science and Greenhouse Management students are helping with petunia and plant sale seedlings and getting Spring veggies in the ground. Cory is getting a handle on pests in the greenhouse. He is waiting for the link to the Eco-Farm Conference so that he, Will, AmeriCorps and students can participate. Cory thanked Jenny Scanland, Sandy Gainsa, Terese Matthewson, Mark Korinek, Will, Jon Ruiter, Karen and Cheryl for their site help. Mark was instrumental in getting Mike Mortenson and Virgil involved in site maintenance projects such as replacing 1 bathroom faucet and water heater. Cheryl saw what was needed and persisted in getting resolve plus developing a bathroom protocol for cleaning. Mark feels that Mike and Virgil can do the plumbing/electrical work needed plus purchase product and bill TGP. Cheryl did a cost comparison on the water heater as reference.
9. The Assistant Greenhouse Manager update was given by Will Pierz. Slow season production but a lot in the ground and looking strong for March. Garlic poking up. 14 bare root fruit trees and 7 vines awaiting shipment. He is pleased with the group of AmeriCorps. Will has been working on the mushroom pathways and has learned a dehydration process for them. His work on getting the nursery going is well underway. The shade structure is now on his radar and will reach out to Dave at CTH. Doing detailed planning on the compost operation and ecological responsibilities. He has seedlings propagating indoors.
10. Rebecca G. gave the AG/FFA update and Charlie Mann joined the discussion. 25 students are in the State Convention competition competing in several categories including floriculture, vet science, ag mechanics etc. and TGP lease funds helped pay for this participation. Charlie discussed the videos of programs they are doing and would reach out to Candi Ruf to see if there could be a link to TGP website per Cheryl's request. March 16-19 they are hosting National

FFA. Cory asked if TGP video could be shared for AG student tours. Junior Livestock Show in May same weekend as Plant Sale. They are selling FFA hats on their website. Edible Reno Tahoe will feature Charlie and Rebecca on AG education in their next issue. 2 students virtually engaged in NV AG Legislature Experience.

11. Under other issues Karen mentioned the April 17 newsletter deadline and asked who would provide content beside the Sustainability Campaign website snapshot. Cheryl asked Charlie and Rebecca to email content on outcomes of the State Convention for the newsletter. Cory mentioned Mike Mortenson suggested brushes be added to outdoor classroom rollup windows and doors to maintain heat and mitigate moisture getting in. Cheryl requested a handyman volunteer to put bathroom door sweeps on.
12. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM and next meeting scheduled for March 25 at 2:30PM at GC and/or via conference call. Jon Ruitter would chair that meeting.