

## The Greenhouse Project Action Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 25, 2025 2:30-3:15 PM

Meeting @ Green Central; Call in option 425-436-6326 Access Code 299827

1. Attendance—Karen Abowd, Ann Hamel, Christin Cohee, Jon Ruiter, Cheryl Rotter; Call in—Jo Kilpatrick, Karel Ancona, Lauren Gates, Katie Mitchell
2. Treasurer Vicki Crabb emailed her account update and Karen reported that TGP was on track to exceed last year's Grateful Harvest Dinner proceeds. Still awaiting credit card fees and ticket sale numbers via Shopify.
3. Grateful Harvest Dinner 2025 wrap up.....what worked and what needs work.

-Karen said ticket sales starting June 1 was best move ever and worked well; sponsor reach out February-March works best as it takes awhile to get all sponsors payments in; promotion via Edible Reno Tahoe ad, articles, newsletter, Facebook, EVITE all worked well; Auction roll out to all on our newsletter email list and EVITE and pre-registration emails sent out by Jon Ruiter was a terrific move.

-putting TGP slide show in movie format works for Roku TV at NSC. Thank you Ann.

-programs printed through Sierra printing great idea and sending to several folks to proof read a great idea.

-having a guest chef, Brandon Lafave an excellent move. Food superb!

-Having Ann manage the Shopify credit card machine alongside Vicki and Karen was a great way to go for Angel Donor Match. Gave Karen a chance to visit with each table plus help to capture emails and donation amounts for Vicki to record.

-Suggestions for improvement—beer service was delayed so having an ice bucket on tables having beer would help; when servers were busy serving food, wine service slow so having bottles of wine on tables would help and board members pouring wine at tables was a great touch. Assigning auction volunteers several items to be responsible for is what needs to happen. 2 items almost got thrown out!! Jon Ruiter suggested that all auction items are numbered on manilla envelopes and that Jon keeps those envelopes and not have them taped on auction boards so that those responsible for those items must go to him to get envelope with instructions to complete transaction etc. Jo suggested that auction items be on photo paper for more pop and Cheryl said she would take care of that next year. Jo suggested that the board brain storm on better auction items

and Karen pointed out that some board members contributed nothing. Auction proceeds were \$13,500 which is comparable to years past but more could be made. Jon said it is still good to have a variety of price points on items. Art does not do well. Dinner packages and adventure packages do much better. Karel suggested maybe a hot air balloon ride for 4 next time. More champagne as TGP ran out. One case donated but not enough for 119 guests.

-FFA/Ag teachers did a terrific job. Christin said there was great energy in the room.

All in all and outstanding event and this year we tripled the Angel Donor Match!!!

4. Executive Director Jon Ruiter reported that he submitted the Charis grant for \$6K for a hydroponic system to increase our food production 20% for donation. Will hear in November if TGP is a grant recipient. \*Produce numbers attached and the team crushed it!! We are well ahead of last year.... 3,555 pounds so far donated in 2025 and since 2014 ...34,586 lbs donated to the food insecure.
5. & 6. Director of Programs. Christin Cohee reported that Erin. Operations Manager is in Europe so she provided updates for both of them. Lots of gleaning; corn and squash harvested; new tomato and cuke plants planted in the greenhouse. Ripple picking up plants for Fly ranch and Paiute Indian Museum next week. AmeriCorps hiring in progress ...both part time positions and one will be for Foothill garden.
7. Education & Outreach Coordinator Ann Hamel reported that home school groups came out a couple weeks ago and more for next week. New CHS Plant Science students out and very enthusiastic!. Another volunteer event scheduled for November.
8. Lauren Gates, Ag instructor, reported soils competition is next week with 16 students going. Leadership conference is the week after and is a Base Camp in leadership training.. Students will be helping with the pumpkin patch, doing a float for NV Day and teaching kids how to line dance.
9. Under other issues Karen suggested the Nov newsletter include article from Jon with brief overview of TGP organizational priorities or new initiatives and thank all donors who have made what TGP possible. Karel to thank all donors in-kind and monetary, sponsors, volunteers, NSC owners and staff and Z Bistro chef Brandon Lafave. Karen reported her Facebook Birthday brought \$1,336 to TGP in donations. Flower Basket Campaign 2026 starts in October and she needs 2025 spreadsheets with contacts and this years baskets come down next week.

10. Next meeting Thursday October 30, 2025 @ 2:30PM @ green Central with call in option.

11. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.