

The Greenhouse Project Action Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 28, 2023

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

1. In Attendance—Jon, Christin, Will, Haley, Emma, Karen, Cheryl; Call ins-JoAnne, Vicky, Karel
2. Treasurer Vicki Crabb updated the group on account balances and proceeds from The Grateful Harvest Dinner. She mentioned that auction proceeds from the auction site had not hit the bank yet. She also outlined proceeds from farmers market to date and Grow It Forward.
3. Grateful Harvest Dinner 2023 assessment of what worked and what did not—
 - most successful event we have ever had!; Amazing job by all staff, board volunteers and FFA leadership
 - Reaching out via Evite, email etc to contacts end of March, beginning of April was best approach for getting sponsors putting us ¾ way to our goal before the event.
 - menu fantastic; next time list ingredients TGP is providing for a particular dish
 - music should be mote background and less loud as those near the stage could not talk to folks next to them.
 - TGP video needs to be on the TV screen
 - Janette thought tables should be closer together though not having that had folks getting up and moving around which was good. John Procaccini may add a table to the current setup which would put tables closer together.
 - 100 guests a good number but a few more a non issue
 - opening up program sponsorship to action group and others was a good way to pay for program
 - suggest a bar set up so folks can buy cocktails from Nashville Social beyond wine and beer pairing
 - auction boards with envelopes on back with directions worked well; popcorn bidding worked but Jon needs to work through the lag time in real time winner updates as auction helpers were wanting to get prizes to winners. 1 person/3 auction items was good ratio and 2 working the raffle winners worked well. 4 at the door was great for seating and rotating raffle ticket sellers working in pairs worked well
 - set up and clean up was terrific
 - FFA leaders should walk around with donation bucket especially if giving away an item like this years knitted pumpkins from Kitty's sister
 - way the event was marketed and selling tickets online with Karen mailing physical tickets and checking on menu preferences with folks worked perfectly.
 - Jon will send out a thank you via the newsletter and new donor emails will be added to that contact list.
4. Flower Basket sponsor campaign for 2024 will kick off in October after baskets come down. Jon

Will update sponsor form. Karen will send in application on Oct 2 for banner over Carson St. Karel to do an article in newsletter about flower baskets. November/December she will do article for Carson Now. Jon will send Karen the 2023 list of sponsors with contact info. Baskets come down tomorrow and Will to inventory. Amy Riddle has pursued and still pursuing grants to start our petunia seedlings. This year will be a pilot project to see how well that is managed. Jon likes to focus on renewals first and then in January have Karel do an article for new sponsors.

5. Executive Director Jon Ruiter said we are still waiting for a permit for the expansion site. Carson Valley Sustainability Day is Oct 14 from 10-2 pm. Mark Korinek hosting the National Ste Summit at Empire School and their will be a Friday afternoon tour of Green Central. Jon submitted the produce numbers attached and staff is doing a tremendous job far exceeding all previous years of donation of produce.
6. Greenhouse Manager Will Pierz provided updates. Done well with gleaning and working with folks on ripeness and donation window. Volunteers did not get scheduled for gleaning so he and Christin have done all the picking. Stable production in the greenhouse and tomatoes productive. Preparing replacement seed orders. Some pest pressure in the greenhouse and secondary pepper crop starting up. New hire training list updated and a document goes to new hires for each line item besides verbal explanation. Sign off to occur once that item is successfully accomplished. Dom starts Monday and will work through the plant sale. Will shared that Capital City Circles whom TGP donates to is having an Oct 19 fundraiser at Nashville Social—a bourbon and brew tasting for \$100/person.
7. Assistant Greenhouse manager Christin Cohee announce the Oct 7 Volunteer Day from 9-12 at green central for garden bed cleanup. She has lots of interest and shared with CTH also and will text Dan Mc Clure to see if his AmeriCorp can participate. Nov 1 is next newsletter. She is experimenting with native plant seeds and researching best way to over winter and working forward with Ripple Effect Project on this. At Foothill Garden summer crops are slowing down but heartier greens still doing well. Some deer pressure. Deciding on when to install new plastic sheeting. Karen exchanged some note for website updates on Grow It Forward campaign for Christin to implement. Christin to add list of Angel Donor Match contacts to TGP contact list.
8. Karen gave the AG/FFA update per Lauren Gates that the Soils team took 1st in State at competition and will be going to Nationals in May!
9. Karen updated the group on the CHS/WNC Career Pathways forum. Submitted written suggestions that Christin had given her and conversed with leaders present on a Jump Start program for AG. Also talked to CTH who is working with Nick Gladys from WNC about, as Christin suggested, their Foothill Garden being the working site with the college for a Jump Start program.
10. Nder other issues Cheryl researching best health insurance plan for staff and getting cost comparisons as the Chamber gets 20% discount with Hometown Health. Her contact is Linda on this research. Karen discussed her meeting with CTH and conversation refamiliarizing how CTH used to collaborate pre-covid. Paula Mayer wants to do an Bee Event as TGP has done in the past and Karen shared Will and Christin's contact info with her. This would be a June 17-23 event. She is looking at available resources for meditation, yoga and other opportunities along with the medicinal plant component and cooking. Was very excited at Will and Christin's suggestion of crop selection and growing garlic and potatoes. She shared that CTH employees now get paid for 16 hrs of volunteer work so TGP upcoming opportunity was shared with her. Christin will communicate with her on all upcoming TGP events.
11. Next meeting Thursday Oct 26, 2023 @ 2:30 PM @ Green Central with call in option
12. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.