

The Greenhouse Project Action Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 29, 2024

Meeting was call in only due to weather @ 425-436-6326 Access Code 299827

2:30 -3:30 PM

1. Call in attendance – Karen Abowd, Jon Ruiter, Will Pierz, Vicki Crabb, JoAnne Skelly, Karel Ancona, Jo Kilpatrick. Dan McClure emailed he was in a meeting with Jake O’Farrell regarding greenhouse repair parts for Green Central. Christin Cohee was ill.
2. Treasurer Vicki Crabb reported on account balance updates including Grow It Forward. She also submitted the totals for 2024 Flower Basket sponsors @ \$13,720.
3. Flower Basket Campaign 2024 campaign report further elaborated on by Jon Ruiter. Monies raised definitely provides for Casinelli’s watering costs and labor cost of planting and nurturing. Jon said he has 64 of 66 downtown baskets sponsored and still waiting to hear from GNCU, Carson Jewelry and Loan, & Carson Nugget. Total of 72 baskets sponsored so far so excellent response. He has a bracket for Angela Bullentini’s new office. New signage won’t be installed til may and he might need a volunteer to assist. Karel Ancona will coordinated with Christin Cohee on a thank you on social and print media.
4. Mothers Day Plant Sale details discussed. Karen reported that John Procaccini will be on Monday Board meeting call in so layout revisions and parking logistics will be discussed then including weather to place a vendor at the old Plant Sale entry. Karen asked that Will do signage inventory and that likely signs for specific handicap directive and cashier, way finding to ramp entry. Question will be addressed if all should enter and exit from same ramp. Karen asked that Will and Christin coordinate on volunteer needs and how many for each need and determine a final date for volunteer commitment. Idea od repurposing water jugs discussed and Will though it best that for Farmers Market these would be an item sold as moss terrariums. Karen confirmed per Karel’s question that Charlie will do cookbook signing at the event as proceeds benefit TGP. Cheryl Rotter needs to advise as to Build a Basket needs and how many volunteers she needs.
5. Executive Director Jon Ruiter updated the group on progress for Sustainability Hub after meeting with Karen Abowd and Mark Rotter. Engineer to do calcs on structure and loads has been engaged and will determine if steel anchors (less costly) vs concrete piers will be used. Mark and Jon walked site and 2 existing hoop house NOT in way of sewer line found to run diagonally across property. Mark feels placing new hoop house on Southwest side on the right opposite the existing hoopouses is best. Jake will need to remove and resituate the 26 posts set in dirt 3’ down and move the road base in place between the posts to new location at added cost. Labor is \$9,000 for this. Mark Rotter will have and engineer he uses do a site plan. Jon feels that by mid to end of April progress will resume.
6. Director of Operations. Will Pierz, updated the group on the tractor issue and correspondence continues with CCSD Steve West, Paul Begler, Virgil and Michael Dziabo. To use tractor Will now needs to pre-schedule though the power steering has been out for weeks on it which he reported at that time. Suggestions of alternatives—borrowing Arnolds tractor while he is out of the country, loan of Janette

Blooms tractor which Karen found out is not for loan but Janette will deliver for same day use only. Leasing or getting a used bobcat all discussed. Karen suggested it should be put on our website Wish List ASAP but emphasized that proper care of equipment must be protocol including the TOM and truck. Will also needs 50 gallon barrels and IBC totes that food and bev industry discards. Karen asked if Will would send a picture of what he needs and Charlie will reach out on Facebook.

Homemade fertilizers are in good shape and enough batched for the season. Moving native plants to Sustainability Hub. Composting currently on hold due to wet conditions. Weed seed under control on sifted compost and still has a couple of trailer fulls to work through..

Americorp training going well which Christin mainly handles and Will contributes some to. ¼ term positions coming available and on Americorp finishing after Plant Sale. Noted that donation in some aspect of produce to Stewart Indian School. Karen gave Will a copy of the Native Plant Book from Stewart Indian School Museum Director Bobbi Rahder.

7. Director of Programs , Christin Cohee submitted her report via email due to being sick.
*Report attached below
8. No representative from AG/FFA was present to update the group.
9. Christin's report attached confirms what is included in this newsletter including the "What's in a Name/Sustainability Hub" article by Will and upcoming newsletter deadline and content.
10. Next meeting Thursday March 28 @ 2:30 PM@ Green central with call in option. Jo Kilpatrick has reminded board and staff of 5 pm Board meeting March 4 call in only.
11. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Christin Report:

- Plant sale vendor updates: Monarch Society, Root N' Wing, and Bee City have all said that they will be there. La Nova is a maybe and said that she would let me know in a few weeks. We've also had 3 other, new applicants.
- Plant sale volunteers: so far, we have 3 people who have signed up to volunteer for the whole day. Ms. Gates has also shared the form with all of her students, so hopefully we will get some student volunteers. I will make a Facebook/Instagram post in the coming weeks as well.
- Newsletter will go out either tomorrow or Monday. Will is doing "what's in a name" article and Karel will announce plant sale info
- Next newsletter - May 1st. To be included: harvest dinner sponsorship opportunities, final plant sale announcement, talk about our farmers market presence and offerings, call for gleaning volunteers and forms
- First Green Central volunteer event of the year scheduled for Sat. March 23rd from 9am - 12pm (weather-dependent)
- met with the new UNR extension horticulture outreach/master gardener coordinator this week to discuss collaboration opportunities. Hoping to get more regular master

gardener volunteers and potentially have them lead some classes and/or volunteer groups

- Other events this spring: Kids to Parks day Saturday, May 18th at Mills Park. I will be away for a wedding, so Will and an AmeriCorps will take the lead. Tahoe City Grow Your Own Festival May 31st from 3-7pm. We will sell additional plants again this year.
- Things are moving right along in the greenhouse with lots of seeding in the last couple of weeks. New tomato crop is taking off and pest presence is minimal. We've had a steady harvest of greens, tomatoes, and herbs each week for donation.
- Transplanting lettuces and other greens into the Foothill hoop house. Mice/voles have mostly been leaving them alone. Still working on eradicating them...
- Getting Hoop house 2 at Green Central prepped and hopefully will be filled with spring veggie transplants at the end of the month.
- Eddie has been tackling, and doing a great job with, fruit tree pruning around green central