

The Greenhouse Project Action Group Meeting Minutes  
Thursday February 24, 2022  
2:30 – 3:50 PM

1. In Attendance – Jon Ruiter, Cheryl Rotter, Vicki Crabb, Jo Kilpatrick, JoAnne Skelly, Cory King, Will Pierz, Amy Riddle, Karel Ancona, Patrick Flynn
2. Vicki Crabb, Treasurer, provided account balances and noted the major Sustainability Endowment donors: Hop and Mae Adams Foundation, Fred Osterhagen, Greater Nevada Credit Union, and E.L. Cord Foundation.
3. Flower Basket Update: Jon noted that we have 71 basket sponsors to date and have received \$14,670 – enough to cover the costs of the program for this season. Jon also added that we do still have a couple spots open if anyone knows of any business or anyone who might be interested. Cheryl inquired whether it would be worthwhile to explore having the city take on the costs of the program.
4. Sustainability Plan Update
  - Jon informed the group that Mark Korinek, Cory, Will, Patrick, and himself had met the previous day to discuss planning, timing, and logistics for the new site, and that it had been a very productive meeting.
  - Cory stated that Mark K. said fencing at the site would begin in the next week and that grading is to be scheduled soon – Mark to discuss with Brian at EPS.
  - There was a discussion on surveying needs to ensure proper drainage. Cory noted that Mark would ask Brian / EPS whether it was something they could perform, and Cheryl would inquire with Manhard Consulting, although she pointed out that Mark Rotter would be leaving soon on vacation and Manhard’s surveyor / engineer combination could take at least a month or more to get a report back.
  - Cory also noted that the vermicompost CFT unit had been delivered; that construction of two hoop houses by Jake O’Farrell had been approved by the Board and would begin after site grading; that Mark K. mentioned the possibility of putting in an all-season water line; and that we can’t start composting until we have water in.
  - Will stated that he and Patrick would begin doing outreach to find source paper and cardboard materials for the composting operation, and he asked the group for any ideas of potential companies to contact for wood scraps, sawdust, clean cotton fabric scraps, etc.
  - Will also discussed quantities of food waste from CCSD sources and the process of unloading finished compost from the CFT.
  - Cory also noted that worm propagation would begin in the greenhouse so that we have an abundant supply of worms when we’re ready to start the vermicompost operation.
5. Volunteer Program Update
  - Amy said the first volunteer training session went very well and that all 10 people that had signed up showed up, and that all signed up for the second session on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Will added that Foothill Garden would be hosting a youth group from Shadow Mountain Church in Gardnerville on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting 6-8 teens and 3-4 adults.

## 6. Plant Sale Planning

- Cheryl and Vicki have been obtaining baskets for the “Build a Basket” promotion; they have about 25 so far. It is still TBD how the baskets will be put together, i.e. what items will go into different sized baskets. Cheryl and Vicki will get gardening gloves as basket items. For now, we are targeting having 40 baskets available for the Mother’s Day weekend plant sale event. Cheryl, Vicki, Jo, and anyone else interested will meet again separately in April for more detailed planning.
- Cory said we’ll start recruiting for Plant Sale volunteers at the next volunteer training session.
- Cheryl asked how we can get more of the FFA students involved in helping with the Plant Sale. Group discussed possibly offering gift cards as incentives. Cory will let Charlie and Rebecca know about the event so the students can get it on their radar.
- Cory also mentioned that some seedlings have been started; that the Shopify site would be better stocked and promotions would be ramped up around beginning of April to get early spring sales going; and that he’ll be reviewing pricing for the upcoming season.

## 7. Farmers Market Planning for 2022 Season

- Jon began by noting that the 2022 Carson Farmers Market would begin June 4<sup>th</sup>, so we needed to start thinking about what this season’s booth would entail. Cory added that we wouldn’t be focusing on flower bouquets as in past years, so we needed to figure out what our “purpose” at the market would be.
- JoAnne asked if we could sell hardy herbs like chives, etc. Cory said there would definitely be herbs and seedlings for sale, and Will added that we did a good amount in sales of those last season.
- There was some discussion on offering some type of educational component at the market, and Will suggested we talk to Breana (Market Manager) to get her thoughts. If we do this, a good topic for the beginning of June would be to have Arnold give a garlic session. Cheryl suggested we may be able to provide business card size handouts throughout the morning advising of a class or workshop at 11 am (or whenever it was going to be).
- Will asked if we should continue with being there every week or if we should go back to every other week. Vicki said if we have the resources, it would be good to continue with every week, as the community awareness of TGP is valuable.

## 8. Executive Director’s update:

- Jon said he had sent out the current produce donation numbers to the group, and noted that through February 2022 we were ahead of where we were in 2021, which was a good thing. We’re still trailing the first two months of 2019 and 2020, but still an improvement over last year.
- He also told the group that our USDA Specialty Crops Grant Letter of Intent was approved and we were asked to submit a full application by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Jon and Lisa Taylor had met several times to work on the application and would be finalizing it in the coming week to submit it timely.

## 9. Greenhouse Manager’s Update:

- Cory informed the group that we’ve been harvesting tomatoes since the beginning of the year and they’ve been doing fairly well. He also said he’s doing an experiment with

the students on the disease issue that keeps recurring; he suspects it's a pH issue with the soil and the experiments are producing good results. The students are helping with collecting data.

- The existing hoop house has been recovered with plastic, so now both hoop houses are ready to go.
- Cory discussed the current AmeriCorps staffing. Patrick just joined and will be focused primarily on the new site. There are still a couple part-time openings that Cory is recruiting for.
- Petunia seedlings have been started and are on track; pepper seedlings have also been started.
- Crop update: the petunia seedlings are looking very good and tomato seedlings are coming in nicely – should be able to get a tomato crop going soon.
- Cory also noted that some of our volunteers from the past couple years are beginning to return on a regular basis after the pandemic slowed down how often they came.

10. Assistant Manager's Update:

- Will said the Foothill Garden is looking good; he had some radishes to donate in January. Garlic is already coming up and looks great – there's six 40' rows of different varieties.
- The hoop house is fully planted with lettuce, arugula, spinach, radishes, and turnips, in addition to the strawberry expansion he did in the hoop house – approximately 24-28 additional strawberry plants for production.
- Will is going to contact Jake O'Farrell to get advice on the propagation house to be built and will get an estimate from Jake for him to build it.

11. Education and Outreach Coordinator Update

- Amy said the new website pages and design are coming along nicely, and thanked Karel for her help in developing and reviewing content.
- She also said the students have been working on plant biographies, which will be useful during the plant sale.
- Cheryl asked when the Roots, Shoots, and Fruits t-shirts were needed. The supplier does not have brown, but we can possibly do tan or another "earthy" tone. We also need sizes of what's currently needed for the volunteers.
- The newsletter is being prepped for March 1<sup>st</sup> delivery.

12. CHS Ag / FFA Update: No update this month as neither Rebecca nor Charlie were there.

13. Other Issues / Concerns / Website Considerations: None.

14. Next meeting will be held March 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 PM at Green Central Classroom and via phone.

15. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.