

## **Greenhouse/Basket Meeting Minutes Feb 20, 2009**

In attendance: Karen Abowd, Mark Loppiccolo, Joanne Skelly, Ralph and Linda Marrone, Mark O' Farrell, Joe and Anne Mc Carthy, Linda Deacy, Bob Keith, Vern Krahn

1) Regarding location of the greenhouse Joe McCarthy had spoken to Juan Gussman and Ken Arnold. Some mention was made of the Anderson Ranch as a possible location and wood chip power generation was discussed.

--Joe suggested that Karen arrange a meeting with Larry Werner, Karen and Joe to discuss the go forward and all the issues to be tackled including feasibility for a BOS presentation at a later date.

--Mark Loppiccolo wants us to make sure we secure enough land to allow for future expansion of the greenhouse project based on the number of agencies supplying people in need.

2) Type of structure--Mark Loppiccolo handed out to his action group 6 proposals for greenhouse structures that Karen had previously obtained for review in terms of wind/snow load and long term durability and suitability for this project.

3) For the writing of our business plan Joe continues to try to enlist the help of Kathy Hombartie. Linda Deacy also volunteered to make an initial attempt at drafting the business plan.

--Joanne Skelly stated it was realistic to consider \$13,000/yr for utilities

--Anne wanted to make sure provisions for security were a part of the business plan

--It was noted that the greenhouse project will have to pay for its own water

--Allowance for porta-potties needs to be included

4) Regarding funding Joe and Linda had nothing more to report only that grants through Slow Food and the USDA were being looked at. Karen reported that Genie Azad had contacted Robin Williamson because she had heard about this project and was aware of grant money available to projects that fit our business model. Genie contacted Karen for additional information regarding the greenhouse project and was going to apply for the grant by the Feb 13th deadline. The grant funding available if this project qualifies is \$100,000.

--Linda Marrone suggested anothe grant source for 2010 through the Farmers Market Coalition

--Joanne Skelly suggested partnering with the need based organizations we hope to supply fresh vegetables to apply for sustained funding

--Karen mentioned she was attending a Poverty and Economis Development meeting for the purpose Joanne suggested as well as to learn how to integrate the various agencies with the proposed greenhouse program. Joe said he would call Kim Riggs to see if there were any need based agencies we were leaving out.

5) The flower baskets were the next point of discussion. Karen reported she had just picked up the Google earth maps from NDOT to add to the submitted application and that

Russ Law was working with the bracket supplier for final drawings that meet NDOT requirements. Karen is hoping for NDOT approval in a couple of weeks. It takes 2 weeks to get the brackets. Bob Keith was concerned about the 50# wt load on the gas lamp poles on Curry St. He was going to check into whether those poles could support that wt. Carson St poles are not a problem.

--Vern had been to a landscape conference in Reno and spoke to individuals that plant Reno's baskets that Karen had spoken to previously. Their numbers concurred with Karen's that the cost of the baskets including maintenance was \$200/basket. Karen had projected that for 80 baskets it would cost \$16,000 and allowed an additional \$4,000 for a small mobile watering unit. Joe pointed out that this would go before the Citizen's Committee for approval first.

--Dale Hildebrand could not attend the meeting so Karen would email he additional questions pertaining to the basket program.

--Ralph suggested that the CCCC approach businesses to sponsor a basket

--Linda M. asked if we had given any thought to how insects attacking the flowers would be dealt with

--Mark O. suggested that we consider the soil mix for the flowers and Karen asked that he be involved in that and provide cost on soil.

6) It was asked that budget info and all correspondence be put on the CCCC website under action committee to keep communication going. Dates for flower basket info are most imminent as flowers have to be ordered.

7) It was determined that it is too premature to involve the need based agencies in meetings at this time until we are further along in the greenhouse project approval process.

8) Right now Joe strongly suggests that the agricultural part of the greenhouse project take a logical, practical course as we want it to be a forever program. Therefore no dates set for BOS presentation or planning commission application.

Meeting adjourned @ 1:00 and next meeting set for March 27 @ noon. Location TBD.