

**May 22, 2009**  
**Flower Basket/Greenhouse Meeting**  
**Meeting Time: 12:00- 1:00 PM**

In Attendance: JoAnne Skelly, Tammy Westergard, Mark Loppiccolo, Scott Fahrenbruch, Kenny Frazier, Ralph and Linda Marrone, Dale Hildebrand, Janette Bloom

1) Flower Basket progress report:

- 22 master gardeners planted the baskets on Tues and Wed of this week and will keep the baskets watered and in the UNR greenhouse until we are ready for them. Deadline to have them picked up is June 14.
- Dale reported that the plant material was of excellent quality most especially the plant material that Greenhouse Garden Center ordered from Skagit Gardens. The Verbena was of excellent quality as well. Dale has 4 bags of soli left for fill as needed and enough Osmocote for fertilization.
- Dale also reported that the baskets filled up 4 tables 5' x 10' to give us a guideline as to how many enclosed vehicles we would need to pick up the baskets.
- Mark Loppiccolo and Ralph Marrone volunteered to pick up the baskets in Reno as did Karen and Tammy. Mark would use the Coldwell Banker moving truck but needs advance notice to reserve it. Karen had spoken to David @ Greenhouse Garden Center and he said we could use his trailer so Ralph will pull it. It was also concluded that the best approach would be to leave the baskets in the vehicles and let Parks and Rec take the baskets out and hang them as needed. Dale advised that the gates @ the UNR greenhouse open @ 7:00 AM and close @ 4:30 PM. Scott said he would give Karen a timeline next week and Karen would let Dale, Mark and Ralph know. Karen gave the location for pick up as 910 Valley Rd, Reno.
- Karen stated that the brackets would all be here by next week including the wall mount brackets for business baskets. Scott said they could only mount the ones on City buildings, ie. CC Library, City Hall, CCVCB. Mark said in lieu of sponsoring a basket he would take a look @ the 7 other businesses requesting business baskets to see if there were any mounting problems for the brackets and suggested that the business owners sign a release form so Mark would not be liable for any problems since he would supply the labor for mounting. Tammy would get a bracket to Mark to help with his assessment. Watering the baskets was the next subject for discussion.
- Scott reminded us that Parks and Rec does not have the manpower to water the baskets but does have the equipment and would train anyone hired for the position and supervise and manage that person.

- Funds for that position were discussed and Scott and Tammy would take the issue to the Wednesday internal finance committee meeting with Larry Werner. Scott stated that we would always need a summer hire for a full time position to water the baskets.
- The position would cost for 16 weeks \$8,960 and for 20 weeks \$11,200. Scott will present the position as a \$12,000 expenditure to see if the City can fund it. As backup Karen will contact Steve from the Nugget who offered to sponsor any baskets not sponsored by June 1. That sponsorship would amount to \$9,250 so if the City could at least meet us half way we should be able to arrive at a solution. Ralph offered to be the hire for the position and he would share the responsibility with two other persons of his choosing. Baskets would need to be watered daily. Discussion was tabled until we find out the results of the Wednesday meeting. Linda said she would check on DEETER funding through the state.
- Karen reported on the basket sponsorship program. To date we have 43 baskets sponsored and that combined with the business seminar funds raised totals \$12,900. With these funds the Hooks and Lattice invoice for \$9,375.84 for baskets and pole brackets and their invoice for \$489.10 for wall mount brackets was paid in full. The initial 50% deposit for the Hooks and Lattice invoice for baskets/pole brackets was graciously put by Joe McCarthy on his personal credit card so the sponsorship earnings allowed us to pay him back and to pay the Greenhouse Garden Center invoice for \$2,299.21 for flowers, soil and fertilizer in full. The balance will go towards the cost of the magnetic sponsor signs for the brackets. Of the sponsored baskets, 16 would go on NDOT poles, 10 to businesses, 35 on the City's black poles and the 20 old pots from last year would be sprinkled on Curry St and on some of the side streets on the East and West side of the downtown. Karen and Tammy would mark the poles with caution tape to assist Parks and Rec in locating which poles to mount brackets to. Karen gave the NDOT permit to Scott and reminded him to contact NDOT 2 working days prior to install. Scott said they would start putting up brackets June 1 and likely June 4/5 they would be ready to hang baskets.
- Tammy contacted the NV Appeal and at no cost they will do a thank you to all the basket sponsors on June 5.

2) The greenhouse was the next topic on the agenda. Karen reported that we did not make the second cut for the USDA funding for job positions but she had since contacted Trey Reffett, Harry Reid's grant manager through Berlyn Miller for direction as to other funding available. Trey asked to interface with the NV Small Business Association on our behalf to source more funds for the greenhouse project. Karen also reported that she had written a letter to Michele Obama appealing for fund sources as well. Karen stated that the CC School District, Bob Anderson and Mark Korinek, had contacted her and

were very interested in having the greenhouse on the EVMS site tied into their wind turbine project and the educational curriculum of their students.

Karen stated that at the June 26 meeting a power point presentation of the offered locations would be given by Kathy Halbardier and at that meeting a location would be voted on. It was noted that many of the available funds are location dependent. Karen also stated that Scott Robinson from Western Nevada Supply offered to donate the irrigation materials.

- Janette Bloom reported that she had looked at a Homeland Security grant for the greenhouse but it had already been awarded to someone else.

3) Next meeting date set for June 26 @ noon @ the CC Library. Meeting adjourned.