

Proposal for Development of Community Greenhouse

November 18,2008

Purpose:

To provide for February planting of our Downtown hanging planters as in Reno on the Riverwalk for a more attractive floral display for our city. This would also provide the opportunity for the horticultural arts not now a part of our Arts and Culture and a way to creatively interface with special needs to staff the facility.

We have to think big and work small so I offer two options for consideration:

a)Building our own greenhouse on Parks and Recreation property on Butti Way. If we can utilize the geothermal possibility of the hot springs we would have our alternate source of heat needed in the colder months and this can be accomplished with old residential radiators which I presently have access to from a project I am doing. I met Kevin Piper at the UNR greenhouse and he put me in touch with Nevada Naturals and both entities felt the hoop house design would work for our needs. Nevada Naturals quoted \$10,000-\$12,000 for the structure and 2 people 2 ½ days to construct and they would be willing to guide us through the building process. Dale Hildebrand who is the master gardener in Reno who plants their baskets in this type of greenhouse projects a final cost of \$40,000 to include the watering system, timers, solar sheeting and tables. She quoted total costs on large baskets @ \$50/basket and medium baskets @ \$30/basket to include planting material and the basket frames themselves. This greenhouse design using geothermal heat qualifies as a "green" project (just an added bonus for Carson City). Mark O'Farrell of Hungry Mother in Carson City would be willing to assist us in our efforts. He has a masters in agriculture and has experience with special needs kids in the horticultural arts. Mark is the one who explained that working with Employment Development to help staff the greenhouse you are billed for one full time person but may have three students fill that position. Dale Hildebrand is providing a list of plant materials to choose from for the baskets.

b)Knowing that in this economy of cutbacks the big picture may not be possible at this time, I have spoken to Mark O'Farrell of Hungry Mother in Carson City about partnering with him utilizing his greenhouse facility. Mark partners with the prison for land and staffing. He has submitted a proposal to expand his current greenhouse which would accommodate our baskets well and could provide labor and the baskets for the same \$30/medium size and \$50/large size cost. The difficulty is waiting for approval from the necessary entities for his greenhouse expansion.

Mark is hoping to know something by the end of December but there is no guarantee and planting must begin in February for the necessary end result.

Respectfully

***Karen Abowd
Arts and Culture Commission***