

Co-op Minutes 08-19-07

In attendance: Will Carey, Margy Riggs, Gian M, Trish, Kristie Glaser, Cheryl H., Willow C., Anne S., David & Trish Thompson, JD, Nia, Steve Brenner, Chair.

Minutes from last meeting were not available in hard copy so will be approved next meeting.

Financial report will be given next meeting.

Committee reports: The committee reports were long and involved so we did not get to complete them. The following reports are summarized significantly. If anyone wants to add more, please do so. Also, I have the complete three page Community Garden update from JD if anyone wishes to see it.

Community Gardens: (1) JD came up with seven possible locations for the new community gardens. The top two are (a) at the old elementary school baseball field; has water, fencing, year-round truck accessible, parking. Scott, B'ville City Mgr, is willing to negotiate with the school district for us. If that doesn't work, then (b) is next to the water works at Pioneer Park. Has easy access, parking, needs water tap and some fencing. Both are excellent sites.

(2) JD is producing a monthly Comm. Gardens Newsletter available on line at the Co-op website and in hard copy at Randy's, City Hall, Farmers Market. Needs recipes.

(3) Needs support at next City Council meeting re water.

(4) Sharing Hands voucher program will allow recipients to share in any leftover fresh produce donated by vendors at the Farmers Market. In place for next Sat!

(5) **Composting Salon** at Corner Café on Sept 28. Followed by **Worm Bin Composting & Compost Demonstration** by Linn & Lane Co. Ext. Specialists at the Farmers Market on Sept 29 from 10 am to 12 am.

(6) JD & Kristie will have a Master Gardeners booth at this Sat.'s Farmers Market to answer gardening questions.

(7) JD needs a garden committee to help with work. Volunteers?

(8) Mandy Cole is doing another article in the "Times" about all of the above.

(9) Free plant starts are available from the USDA Clonal Germplasm Research Cntr on Peoria Rd. All berries from around the world plus mints, filberts, etc. Go online for order form.

(10) OSU Master Gardener Mini-college report (by JD & Will Carey) will be in a salon on Oct 30 at Corner Café.

Farmers Market: Anne reported that it's doing well, the customer base is growing, she's impressed with vendors, but we have greater need for "care & feeding" of vendors. Anne feels that we are having "growing pains" relating to "policy and authority" and that all discussion and decisions between Board, Vendors, Randy, etc need

to go through Anne. She also sees some vendor issues developing (my notes say “pushing”).

- (1) Structure change: Market Mgr (overall)—Anne S.; Finances—Steve/Margy; Vendor Relations: Anne S.; Vendor Committee—Kristie; Community Booth—Trish; Sales & vol. Mgmt—Trish; Volunteer recruiting—Marilyn P & Susan Richards; Vendor check-in—Cheryl H.
- (2) Marketing: Joanne McLennan, Wepler’s sister & a marketing pro
- (3) Locale: next week at Joni & Bill’s lot because of concert at Randy’s; long term: ??? (This was tabled for more discussion)
- (4) Relations with Randy as “property manager.” There was a lot of emotional discussion here that can be reported if anyone wishes. Willow volunteered to be the liason between Anne & Randy. This whole issue will be a topic for next meeting. Gian suggested that we pass around a basket for Randy that vendors can contribute to in order to express our thanks for use of the parking lot. Concern expressed by vendors present, some of whom didn’t want to (be required to?) contribute. JD & Kristie wanted to know “What isn’t competition with Randy?” More discussion scheduled. Will Carey suggested a bullet point list for vendors posted on web site.
- (5) A political group wanted to put up a booth at the Market; we all agreed that even though we might support their goals, it would be a bad precedent, so their request was denied.

The meeting lasted until 9:15 pm when it was decided to have another meeting in two weeks to take up the agenda items that we did not get to.

Next meeting: Friday, Sept 7 at 7:00 pm at Steve Brenner’s house.