

Tehama Together
General Meeting
February 14, 2009

Open:

Chris Pritchard opened the meeting of Tehama Together on February 14, 2009 at 1:05 PM at 20 Antelope Boulevard, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

Present:

Chris Pritchard, Ruth Deike, Doug Smith, Colleen Sheehan, Kathy Moore, Sushie Rose, Orle Jackson, Tina Bacon, Nan Renish, Stan Morgan, Davin Finn

Welcome:

Chris Pritchard welcomed everyone and acknowledged the newcomers to Tehama Together. Chris gave a brief description of the purpose of the group and then asked if each person would give a short description of himself or herself. Newcomer Kathy Moore shared extensively about a group she is involved with called "Slow Food". Sushie introduced her friend Davin who would like to become involved with the Natural Food Market. Another newcomer Doug Smith from Peace and Justice Coalition shared he and his wife's role in the local community.

Website:

Chris announced that the website is up and running. The name is TehamaTogether.org and it is ready to be used as a communication tool for Tehama Together. Ashley Stewartwall is the Webmaster and she is available to answer any questions the group might have. Chris passed out a Tehama Together Bio form to be filled out by the members. She asked the group to turn these in to her and she will get them to Ashley. Ashley will input this information on the website. There was some discussion as to what will go on the website and it was agreed that the Webmaster will be in charge of the content. Chris described the levels of access that will be on the site; there will be levels for members, committees and Executive Committee and. Chris said

that everyone is welcome to have a TehamaTogether e-mail account and Ashley will set that up for anyone who wants it. Lupe said we have to be careful to get to the people who do not have access to e-mail or Internet.

Natural Food Market Report:

Sushie asked if anyone had brought back the form she gave out last week. She wanted to be sure everyone get those back to her so she can begin to put together her business plan. She also wanted clarification as to what the senior age discount cutoff should be. There was a consensus that 50 years old was a good cutoff. The group decided that she did not have to ask for verification of age.

Announcement:

Chris announced that Sushie has stepped down from the co-chair position. She will remain chairperson of the Natural Food Market. There was some discussion as to whether the group wanted to appoint another co-chair or should they just go back to having one chairperson. Chris asked if anyone was interested in being a co-chair at this time. No one volunteered and Chris said she was fine with continuing her chair position alone and the group agreed this was fine. Ruth asked what Chris visualized as the structure of the officers of Tehama Together. Chris said she liked the way it was set up i.e., Chair, Secretary/Treasurer along with the chairs of the committees making up the Executive Committee. However, Chris said she was not sure what the rules were.

Business:

Chris asked the question "Is a Board of Directors necessary". A discussion followed and it was suggested that the Board of Director's structure could be clearly defined in the Bylaws. There was a discussion as to how the officer positions will evolve and this will all be discussed in the Executive Committee and defined in the Bylaws. Lupe said someone should decide who speaks for the organization. There should only be one person doing that.

There was a discussion as to how Tehama Together's address list would be administered. It was suggested in order to save paper that an addendum to

the address list will be handed out as new members appear. There will be further discussion as to whether the address list will be posted on the website.

There was a discussion of the pros and cons of membership in Tehama Together. Some of the ideas that came out of that discussion are:

1. Membership gives accountability
2. A small membership fee was preferred for
3. Membership gives a vote
4. Discounts could be given to paid members
5. There could be levels of membership
6. Perks with membership
7. Make sure the value of membership was made known
8. Membership for voting purposes would be verified at quarterly or annual meetings. Only paid members would have a vote.
9. The bylaws will spell out the details of membership
10. Any person who comes to general meetings during the year is a member, but unless they are paid members, they do not have a vote
11. Need to look at the rules of a nonprofit pertaining to membership

Orle Jackson was going to do a twenty-minute get together session with the group, but he found that it was not necessary since everyone got a chance to share with the group.

Doug Smith wondered who puts together the agenda. He wanted to point out how important it was to stick to the agenda because of the members' time constraints. He said members will want to use the agenda to gage their interest and the time they will need to spend in the meeting. He felt for the sake of having everything run smoothly the agenda should be followed.

Chris asked if the committees and their chairs had met during the week. Sushie reported that she met with Lana Kitchel at Lana's home. Lana showed her around her property and Sushie was very impressed with the gardens. None of the other committees had met this week. Chris wanted to know how everyone felt about committees' meeting after the general meetings on Saturday. The consensus was that it saved time and it was a great way to allow new members a chance to join one of the committee groups. Ruth said breaking up into committees after the general meeting had made her feel more

involved with the group. Lupe thought it was important to have consistent days and times for all the meetings. She suggested alternating Saturdays and a weekday so persons who could not attend Saturdays would have a chance to come to some of the meetings. The group, as a whole, thought that changing days would be too confusing. Lupe also suggested that someone in the larger group should watch out for new people so they feel comfortable joining in on one of the committees. There was a suggestion of having a banner made to make it easier for people to identify the meeting place of the General Meetings.

Chris said that the property owner has shown the building again. She said she has not spoken to the proprietor because there is still not enough information to present a proposal to him. It was agreed that the process might take longer than we expected and we are not ready to commit to anything yet. Someone mentioned we could operate without the non-profit status, but donations and contributions will not be tax deductible. It was decided that a meeting should be set up to get the business plans together. It was felt that brainstorming, as a group will help facilitate the plans. We need business plans from each of the committee chairs so we can use that information to make up the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and the overall Business Plan for Tehama Together. The group agreed that Saturday, February 21, 2009 would be a Business Plan Planning Meeting.

There was a discussion on which bank Tehama Together will use for its bank account. Sushie recommended Sierra and Orle recommended Cornerstone. This will be decided soon.

The Executive Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 1:00 PM.

The General Committee Meeting (Business Plan Planning Meeting) will be held Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 1:00 PM.

Adjourned at 2:54 PM

Written by: Colleen Sheehan

Approved by:

