

Tehama Together General Meeting Minutes
Business Plan Planning Meeting
February 21, 2009

Open: Chris Pritchard called the General Committee meeting to order at 1:15 PM on February 21, 2009 at 20 Antelope Boulevard, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

Present: Lupe Green, Joan Gerber, Don Gerber, Kim Anderson, Colleen Sheehan, Orle Jackson, Stan Morgan, Wilkie Talbert, Orval Strong, Chris Pritchard

Call for Additional Agenda Items:

Don Gerber would like to add comments under New Business

Reports:

Website Updates:

Chris Pritchard encouraged everyone to register for the Tehama Together website. Don Gerber thought we might have a training session to learn how to use the website and Lupe Green suggested at the general meetings we might take ten minutes and show new people how to use it. Colleen Sheehan shared her discomfort in using the website at first but felt with practice it has gotten much easier. Chris said that she or Ashley would be happy to train anyone who was uncomfortable using the forum.

Committee Reports:

Natural Foods Market Committee:

Chris announced that Sushie Rose Hahnel has resigned from the Chair position of the Natural Foods Market. Sushie said that she was not able to continue because she had taken on too much and had

made herself sick. Chris said that Davin Finn might be taking over Sushie's Chair position. He was not able to attend this meeting because he had a prior conflict. He will be at the next General Meeting.

Publicity Committee:

Lupe Green said that her co-chair Tina Bacon and she had decided that having co-chairs was not working out and Lupe has agreed to be the Chair of the Publicity Committee. Lupe said she visited the Sierra Pacific Bank and a representative from the bank has told her that once Tehama Together has a nonprofit status they could provide free checking. Lupe also mentioned that she asked the representative if anyone at the bank might be interested in becoming Treasurer for Tehama Together. She said she will be speaking to someone next week that might be interested. During that discussion, Colleen asked Orle if he had contacted Cornerstone Bank yet. Orle said no, but he intended to do that next week. Colleen asked for a motion to go with Sierra Pacific and Joan Gerber seconded it. Don Gerber wanted the floor opened for discussion and a discussion followed. Don wanted to speak about his bank, which is Wells Fargo. He wanted to be sure that we investigated thoroughly the bank we choose. He thought it was important to choose a bank that is willing to loan to a nonprofit organization. He felt we also should make sure that whatever bank we choose it will support us in our endeavor to make Tehama Together successful. Another thought was that we want to make sure our bank has not taken any bailout money from the Stimulus Package. Lupe suggested we could go on line and look up Solari.com (Tapeworm Article) on the web. This is a website put together to explain some of the dark side of the financial issues that have gone on and are going on, at this time in our country.

Lupe shared that she had gone on line to a company called Direct Inc. to see if the name Tehama Together was clear for us to use, and it was. Chris also checked at City Hall and the name was clear there. Now we will register the name and we will be able to hold it for sixty (60) days.

Lupe said her committee was putting together a communication plan and a public relations plan.

Community Resource Committee:

Orle announced that the committee has changed its name to Community Services Network. He said that he and Colleen Sheehan had met on Friday, February 20, 2009 and they had gotten quite a bit accomplished. They put together a list of categories of services and they worked on the Community Services Network Business Plan. Orle said they felt it was very important not to duplicate services in the community. The committee will be going out to the various service organizations in the community to let them know what Tehama Together has to offer. There is a plan to put together a database of resources. Orle thought that as a way to raise money there might be a yearly fee charged to the agencies that use our services. Orle said he has been in touch with the Director of Head Start to find out if Head Start was going to publish another resources list. Orle is thinking Community Services Network might be able to take over that list and publish it annually. There were several ideas offered by the group such as; keeping a Master Calendar for the community, coordinating a Master Calendar (purpose to keep community events scheduled so they do not overlap on the same date), and partnering up with the Chamber of Commerce and the Tehama Fairgrounds with their calendars. Orle also mentioned the possibility of hosting a Community Fair and inviting all the service organizations to be included. Kim Anderson said St. Elizabeths' does that every year and we might be able to have a table there.

There was a discussion of getting some of the local newspaper editorial contributors involved with Tehama Together. The possibility of them writing some articles to enhance the idea of Tehama Together was discussed.

Education Workshops:

No report

Coffee House:

Gregg Gillies was not at the meeting. No report was given.

Chris took this opportunity to discuss her concerns about the Natural Food Market and the Coffee House representation at the Executive Meetings and the General Meetings. Since the two Chairs of these committees live a great distance from Red Bluff, it has been difficult for them to get to the meetings. It was agreed that more participation was needed in order to get their input, i.e., the business plans we will work on today. Kim Anderson said she knows Davin Finn and she will call him to see if she can help him in any way with the Natural Foods Market.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Resumes Submittal

Chris asked that all members of the Executive Committee submit a resume. These will be used for the business plan and for use to show the expertise of our Executive Board.

Business Plan Questionnaire

Lupe Green opened this segment with a description of what she, Chris Pritchard and Colleen Sheehan had been doing to move forward the process of obtaining a 501 (3) (c). Lupe has been concentrating on putting together the business plan. She and Chris put together a questionnaire that will make it easier for the various committees to complete their own business plan.

The first item on the questionnaire to be dealt with was needs assessment. Lupe asked the group to brainstorm the question of needs. She asked, "What does Tehama County need to make it a better place to live for all citizens"? Don Gerber wrote these needs on the board as the group called out their ideas. When ideas stopped flowing, the group had come up with sixty-three (63) needs for Tehama County. The groups next task will be to narrow those needs down to see what projects are viable for Tehama Together to attempt to provide for the community.

During the brainstorming session there were several subjects discussed. Some of these were: Wilkie Talbert brought up an article in the Daily News that concerned him regarding the state budget and layoffs of 23 employees in Tehama County conservation groups. He said grant money is being cut all over the county and this means that services will be cut throughout the county. Wilke said he is trying to get an article about a watershed program into the editorial page in the Red Bluff Daily News, but so far has not been successful. It was discussed among the group as to whether the article, as written, could be placed on tehamatogether.org. This brought up a discussion about having a separate board on the forum called Speak Out. It was mentioned that we would need to have a disclaimer on the page that stated these opinions were not necessarily the opinions of Tehama Together.

Don Gerber wanted to speak about Muhammad Yunus and Micro Banking. Don said that he and Joan watched an interview with Dr. Yunus and were very impressed with his "social business" ideas. Don wondered if this were something that Tehama Together would like him to look into. A discussion followed and it was mentioned that there are other social business modeled programs out there, i.e., Heifer Program. Don will look into this further and report to the group in a few weeks.

Chris announced that the next General Committee Meeting held on Saturday, February 28, 2009 would be a potluck. She will e-mail all the members on the membership list and let them know. She wondered if

anyone knew of a place to get a PowerPoint projector. She would like to demonstrate the tehamatogether.org website on Saturday.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

The next General Committee Meeting will be held Saturday, February 28, 2009.

Assignments:

Register Name

Colleen Sheehan

Add Speak Out to website forum

Ashley Stewartwall

Borrow PowerPoint Projector for meeting

Chris Pritchard

Adjourned: 3:30 PM

Written by: Colleen Sheehan

Approved by: