

Tehama Together
Special General Planning Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2009 – 1:00 PM

Open: Lupe Green opened the meeting of Tehama Together on May 13, 2009 at 1:03 PM at Business Connections – 322 Pine Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

Present: Chris Pritchard, Colleen Sheehan, Orle Jackson, Lupe Green, Judy Burlison, Barbara Sebastian, Kathy Moore, Dana Swanenberg, Jerry Swart

Introductions:

Newly elected chairperson Lupe Green started the meeting by asking everyone present to share briefly, what brought them to Tehama Together. Chris Pritchard (Chair of the Education Workshop Program) shared that she was drawn by the idea of a social environment with a coffee house atmosphere. Judy Burlison said she was drawn by the idea of a community garden. Kathy Moore (Chair of the Natural Foods Market and also involved with Slow Foods) was drawn by her interest in letting the community know more about healthy ways to grow and eat food. Orle Jackson (newly elected Vice Chair and Chair of Community Services Network) shared that he was drawn by the idea of community members who wanted to do something to improve the community. Lupe Green said she became involved because the group seemed as though it was a like-thinking group that shared many of the same passions that she did. Barbara Sebastian shared that Tehama Together had sparked her curiosity and she came to see what the group was up to. Dana Swanenberg shared that she was drawn by all the wonderful ideas that the group seemed to represent. Colleen Sheehan (Secretary) said honestly that her daughter Chris's vision of a community place had drawn her to Tehama Together. Jerry Swart arrived at the meeting after the introductions.

Lupe acknowledged that Chris had done a phenomenal job as Chairperson for Tehama Together and she was delighted that she would continue being Chair of the Education Workshop Program. Lupe shared that Chris had allowed her to help with the administration end of the organization

since she felt that that was not Chris's best love and probably one of the reasons that she decided to move to a different position.

Announcements:

Lupe announced that Tehama Together was sponsoring (with no cost involved) a one day Garden Workshop at her home on Sunday, May 17, 2009. She said there was a good article in the paper and they have had a good response from the public. She said several people had inquired about Tehama Together and she had referred them to the website.

Planning:

Lupe asked if everyone had a copy of this meeting's agenda. She went on to say that Orle Jackson had put together the agenda as a format for the meeting. She then asked Orle to explain to the group what his ideas were.

Orle said that he thought it was important to have goals and he had put together a three-month plan for Tehama Together. He reminded everyone that Tehama Together had only been in existence for three months and he felt that the group had made tremendous progress. He felt it was now time to speed it up a little bit and get it operational.

He said the goals for the next three months would be to develop some specific program plans such as; identify what the group will need as a facility, finish the 501 (c) (3) application that Colleen and others had been working on in order to get the non profit status in place, and then come up with a fund raising plan. Orle said that those were the priorities right now and that they all seemed to tie in with Tehama Together's Mission Statement. He said that the Mission Statement had gone through many changes in the last three months. The following is the current Mission Statement:

Tehama Together will provide a place to bring together community resources to more effectively and efficiently serve the needs of the diverse populations of Tehama County. Community networking, information and referral services, community education and local agricultural resources will be made available through the services of Tehama Together.

Orle said the group was not trying to reinvent something, they were trying to be a possible brokerage house to bring people together to help them become more aware of what agricultural sources are available, what social service resources are available, what educational needs are available and so on. Orle suggested that in order to meet that objective, the group had four goals that had been established. The first one was to provide the place where the group and the community can come together to socialize and work on issues of common concern. This could be called the Coffee House.

He said the next one was Chris's part of it, the educational workshop program. He said there were many people in the town or in the county that had a lot of expertise in different areas. Orle said there are also many people who have retired here in the county and have brought a whole host of educational opportunities with them. Orle said he felt there were two kinds of people, the ones who felt good about their skills and wanted to become a part of the community, and would like to do some workshops, and there were those people who would like to be trained in those specific areas. He said that this educational program would bring those two groups together.

Orle said then there was the goal of creating a system whereby local agricultural products could be made more accessible to the public. Orle said that this was a farming county and most of it was commercial farming, but there were a lot of small farms and a lot of places that could be helped if Tehama Together would be able to publicize them. He added that this was what Slow Foods was doing to help promote small farms. Orle shared that recently he had been looking at a beautiful map of Butte County. It showed all the places where the public could find the farms, wineries and orchards to buy products, but he could not find a map like that for Tehama County. Orle said the group was talking about all the ways they could make our local agriculture more available to the public and a key major part of that was working with Kathy and Slow Foods.

Orle said the last goal was to work with other resources in the community. Orle shared that as a newcomer to the area it had taken him a long time to find social services available. He said there were probably one hundred service organizations in the county, but there was no one place a person could go to find this information quickly and easily. He said what the group was

talking about here was a place where someone could call and hopefully the group would have all the resources available and would be able to send them in the right direction. He said that the way our economy was going a lot of the support for the service organizations was dwindling and the group was trying to see how collectively they could work within the community organizations to help strengthen them. He shared some examples such as buying combined office products or possibly buying a van at some point and other organizations could borrow it when they needed it. He said those were just a few of the ways Tehama Together might be of support to the other organizations.

Orle said those were the four areas that the committee had been discussing. He said he felt now the group had to take it from a conceptual idea, to a thing on paper, where the group could say here was what Tehama Together really plans to do. Then our goals would be made clear in our application for a non-profit status and would be made clear when we try to do a fundraiser as to what we are attempting to do for the community. Orle said the group would want to be sure that it was clear out in the community what Tehama Together stood for.

Orle said he felt the goal for the meeting was to take the four program goals, which were:

- A. To provide a place where individuals and groups can gather to socialize and collaborate on issues of common concern for the betterment of life in Tehama County.
- B. To conduct educational programs for individuals and groups through the services of local experts.
- C. To create a system whereby local agricultural products can be made more accessible to the public.
- D. To support community service organizations and to provide information and referral services to those organizations for individuals in Tehama County.

and develop a needs statement, major activities, resources, timeline, and facility needs as a tool to identify what each category really is. Orle went on to briefly describe each category.

needs – how do we know what the real needs are for each category
activities – what are the major things we want to do under each of these categories
resources – what resources do we know of that we can tap into that could help us meet our goals
timeline – we want to come up with a yearlong plan
facility – secondarily – what facility do we need

Orle felt that at the next planning meeting the committee could come back with this all worked out to show the fruits of their labor and to move on to one of the other three areas. He said the next goal they would probably work on would be the 501 (c) (3) or facilities.

Orle said that this was what the group would be dealing with and he mentioned he was especially pleased to see some new faces that had been unable to attend the meetings for a while.

Lupe thanked Orle for putting together an excellent plan and the way he approached it. Lupe said that the group had used brainstorming in the past and it had been very successful. She explained the process of brainstorming and then opened it up to the group. Lupe facilitated and Chris recorded the ideas on the flip board. The following is what the group came up with:

Brainstorming:

Program Goals

A. To provide a place where individuals and groups can gather to socialize and collaborate on issues of common concern for the betterment of life in Tehama County

Needs Statement for Place

Without a place, we do not have programs
Need a home
Other places need space and organizations

Meet new people
Networking
Retirement past time
Place to put stuff
Community bulletin Board
Sense of Permanence

Activities for Place

Coffee
Workshop
Information and Referral
Community Bulletin Board
Flyers and Brochures
Community Projects
PR Functions
Community Calendar
Fundraisers
Meet and Greet
Lending of tools and Equipment and Resources
Used Magazines Swap
Swaps
Recycles
Swap Meet
Budget
Music
Open Mic
Jazz
Low Cost Activities Book Exchange
Promote **TT**
Family Activities
Youth Development
Games
Education - Organic Gardening

Drop In
Plan Group Activities

Resources for Place

Gregg Gillies - Food Entities
Members with Skill
Members with Time
Members with Energy
Members with Advisors
Members with Sense of Community
Members with Grant Writing Skills
Members with Non Profit Skills
20 years of information and referral experience - Colleen Sheehan
Carpentry, Construction, and skills with tools - Jerry Swart
Volunteer Coordinator - Nan Renish

B. To conduct educational programs for individuals and groups through the service of local experts

Needs Statement for Education Workshop/Programs

Place to Meet
Mill Creek Restaurant - Los Molinos (opens 5-6 weeks)
Promote community interests
Assess needs by gathering ideas
Website - email
PR - Newsletter
ADD Nutrition
Public Awareness
Budget
Publicity
How food is produced
Share expertise with others

Mentorship
Assess topics areas
Encourage local Eco Development and independence
Self Sufficiency
Downscale/Recycle/Reuse Resources
Alternative Health Services
Nutrition
Healthy Food Assessment
Building Skills and Knowledge
Disaster Preparedness
Relief
Ham Radio

Activities for Education Workshop/Programs

Teaching families to negotiate the education system
Field Trips
Organic and Nature Plants
Hands on training
Tai Chi – Barbara Sebastian
Chi Gong
Traditional Crafts and Skills
Speaker Series
What Format
Writing
Arts and Music
Parenting Workshop
Fee Structure/Sponsorships
Diverse Groups
Book Clubs
Bakery
Scenes
Map of Local Resources
Profit Disbursement

Tutoring for Kids
Small Group
ESL
Conversational Spanish
Language Classes
Cooking
Seasonal BBQ's (in season foods)
Spelling Bee in Spanish
Recreational Activities
Drawing expertise from other organizations
Genealogy
Family History

- C. To create a system whereby local agricultural products can be made more accessible to the public

Needs for Agriculture

Access to Local Foods
Transportation
Local map of Tehama County
Pick your own produce
Food Availability Security
Help Farmers – promote product
Public Education
Food Distribution from local farmers to those in need
Produce Availability Website List
Market Place Listing
Year Round Farmers Market
Water Conservation
Pesticide Free Food
Williamson Act
Value of Preserving Farmland
Nature Conservancy Easements

Community Gardens
Co-Op Buying
Invasive Weeds
Wetlands - Edge effect
Marshes

Activities for Agriculture

Seed Saving
Grass fed beef
CSA - Community Supported Agriculture
Vina
Winery
Poultry
Pork
Box Delivery
Gardening Skills
Locally made products distribution
Website listing and map of producers
Role of Community Garden
Access to fertile eggs
Time Line
Coordination of Community Garden
Operation of Community Garden
Community Garden Committees
Seed Sources
 Book Sharing on Gardening
Raise money for books for lending
Composting
Work with library to buy agricultural books
Bookmobile
Field trips
Manton Seed Cherry Tomato
Sheet Mulching

Cold Frames
Cover Crops

Resources for Agriculture

Sources for soft rock plal????
Organic Manure
Goat Meat
Gardening Experts - Jerry Swart
Kelp-Sea Minerals
Ocean Water
Soil Tests
UC Extension
4-H
Farm Bureau
Grange

Tehama Together Time Line

June, 2009

Committee structure and formation
Finalize program plans
Identify facility needs
Field to Fork Exhibit - June 27th
Table at Farmers Market
something and products
Decide on non-profit status
Open checking account
Get Treasurer
6-month contract with Secretary
Decide on financial direction
PR person
Monthly General Meeting Pot Luck

July 2009

Farmer's Market

Preliminary Budget

Find a Site

Committees to establish budgets, activities, and time line

One General Meeting

One Planning Meeting

Executive Committee will continue planning process and will be open to all.

Lemon Eucalyptus lotion used for mosquitoes

Herbal mosquito repellent

Jerry will have a 15-minute slot at next general meeting, which will be Wednesday, May 27, 2009

After the brainstorming session there was group discussion as to when and where the next meetings would be held. There was also some discussion about making the general meeting a once a month potluck. It was felt by the group that more people might attend if we have a fun event. Lupe suggested Bethel Church as an option for a meeting place since she knew the pastor. Colleen and Orle had some reservations and there was a brief discussion about other places to hold meetings. One of the suggestions was having an outdoor potluck and the Red Bluff Park and the Discovery Center were discussed as locations. It was decided by the group that the Discovery Center had a nice setting along with picnic tables so that location was chosen for a potluck general meeting on May 27, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.

The group also decided that the next Executive Meeting, which would be held on May 20, 2009, would be open to the public because it would be a special planning meeting. The details of the executive committee-meeting place had not been determined at the close of the general committee-planning meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

Written by Colleen Sheehan