

Tehama Together  
General Committee Community Garden Minutes  
June 22, 2009  
13245 Hwy 99E, Red Bluff, CA 96080

Call to Order: Lupe Green called the meeting of the Tehama Together General Committee Community Garden Meeting to order on June 22, 2009 at 1:20 PM held at 13245 Hwy 99E, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

Present: Lupe Green, Orle Jackson, Mary Shaver Hobi, Chris Pritchard, Nan Renish, Ruth Deike, Jerry Swart, Ashley Stewartwall

Introduction:

Lupe asked the group to go around and introduce themselves and in five words or less say how they felt about the community garden.

Additional Agenda Items:

Lupe asked if there were any additions to the agenda and Ruth Deike wanted to be put on the agenda because she had some additional information about the garden she wanted to share.

Announcements:

Sign In Sheet:

Lupe asked if everyone had signed the sign up sheet.

Information Cards:

Lupe asked if everyone had filled out the information cards. A few had not and Lupe said they could fill them out later.

### Summer Meeting Schedule:

Potluck General Meetings: – July 6, August 10, (6 PM) at Red Bluff Recreation Area

General Meetings: – July 20, August 24 (1 PM) at Business Connections, 332 Pine Street

Executive Meetings: – July 1, July 15, August 5, August 19 – (1 PM) at Business Connections, 332 Pine Street

Orle passed out a sheet that contained the meeting schedule to the group.

### Community Action Agency Meeting:

Lupe said that Orle had initiated a meeting with the Community Action Agency group and she said that they went there last Thursday and had a wonderful reception. Lupe asked Orle if he would tell the group how the meeting went.

Orle said that Colleen, Lupe and he had gone to the meeting and Orle said they basically introduced themselves to the committee and then Orle gave the agency board an overview as to what their group was doing with Tehama Together. The action committee had quite a few questions and they seemed to be very positive as to what Tehama Together wanted to offer to the community. He mentioned that the secretary to their agency had been laid off by the social service agency she worked for and Orle said he would not be surprised if she joined Tehama Together. Orle said he thought that it would be great to have someone who was connected with a social service organization in the area to be an active member of Tehama Together. He said another member on the committee lived in Los Molinas and he seemed very

interested in the group. Orle felt that they had gotten a lot of positive feedback from the group.

Orle said that he felt the Tehama Together was lucky to have Chris because he had asked her in the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday if she could get a flyer done by the next day and she did. He said that he needed something he could take with him to the meeting to hand out to their committee. He said Chris came up with a nice colored flyer that he had copied in black and white (to save cost) and he gave each member of the action committee a copy. Orle held up the colored flyer and complemented Chris on doing such a good job with such short notice.

Lupe said she had passed around a sign up sheet to the members of the action committee and every single one of them signed up to be on Tehama Together's address list.

Chris wanted to acknowledge Ashley Stewartwall for doing most of the work on the design of the flyer.

#### Unfinished Business:

##### 501 (c) (3) update:

Lupe said that Mary Shaver Hobi came to the last Executive Committee meeting and brought a copy of her Articles of Incorporation from her organization which is called Neighbors without Borders. Mary said the group could use it as a guide and she walked the committee through the steps that she went through in filing her 501 (c) (3). Lupe said that Orle and she had agreed to go over the Articles and Bylaws for Tehama Together. She said they met and went over the documents and Lupe said she was in the process of typing them all up and getting a draft to Orle. She felt

that by next week at the Executive Committee meeting there would be a draft of these documents for all to review.

Facilities Update:

Lupe said the committee was still looking for a facility and she had mentioned the need for a facility at the Community Action Agency meeting.

Field to Fork Update:

Lupe said at the Executive Committee meeting the Field to Fork event was discussed and it was decided that Tehama Together would have a booth at the event. She asked Chris to speak about the event. Chris said she wanted to talk to the group a little about whether they felt the group was ready to present themselves at the event. Lupe said she felt that they were ready and pointed out that they had agreed to have a sign up sheet available at the booth for anyone who might want to be put on the Tehama Together address list. She said they were also planning to have a laptop there so they could show the Tehama Together website to the public.

Chris said that she felt the website focused on all of the entities and she thought that if as a group they were focusing more on a community garden, they might not have enough to share with the public. Chris said she was interested to see what kind of support came out of this meeting. She also said since there was going to be an impromptu meeting at 6 PM that evening, and the community might be involved since the notice was in the paper, she wanted to see what the interest was. She said she was willing to set up a booth at the Field to Fork event and sit there through the day, but she was not sure what she had to offer the public.

Orle said that he had met a woman that sold a coloring book about the Farmer's Market that seemed to be interested in the

group and he thought he might be able to get her to come and sit with Chris in the booth. Chris said that the event was on Saturday and she had been going to put together a colored brochure/postcard, however, she had not had enough time to do that and that was one of the reasons for her reluctance.

Ashley said she thought the group might get a lot more support from the public for the community garden as they stopped by the booth and got some actual information. She thought this was a good way to get more people interested in helping with the garden.

Chris wondered if they could hand out the same flyer on Saturday that she had made for Orle to use for the action committee. Mary said she thought it could be made smaller to save expense. Chris asked for clarification and Mary said she thought that all that was needed was something the public could take away with them to remember Tehama Together. Orle said the only thing he would change on the flyer would be to take off the Natural Foods Market since they were not sure where that was going. Chris said the group was not sure about any of the entities they had talked about developing, but she felt that in the beginning, the market was a key interest to some of the people and she did not feel the group would want to close that out.

Lupe suggested adding to the flyer, local food/agriculture. Lupe asked Chris if she thought that would be too much for the flyer. Chris said she would see what she could do about modifying the flyer.

Mary said she thought as the people came up to the booth and shared their needs and concerns, the whole focus could change. Mary asked for some input as to where the event was to be held and a few details about the actual event.

Ruth Deike asked if Kathy Moore was involved with any of things the group was talking about. Chris said she had received an e-mail from Kathy that morning saying she was too busy to be the chair for the community garden and she would not be able to attend this meeting. Chris said that Kathy was very involved with the Food for Fork event. Someone asked if Slow Foods had a website and Chris said that they did. The group agreed that that they would have the booth at the event.

Lupe asked volunteers to sign up for a two-hour time slot to help at the booth. Lupe said she wanted to be sure someone would go around to every single local farmer and get his or her information. She said that would be a good way to begin to identify the counties local food producers. Chris said that they needed to appoint just one person to do that because they did not want several people collecting the information. Nan said she would do that in the morning. Orle said he would be coming in the afternoon. Chris said she had to be there at 8:30 AM to set up and Ashley was going to be with her.

#### New Business:

##### Community Garden:

Lupe said that it was great to be getting started planning the garden because this was something that so many people were interested in. She asked Ruth to begin by sharing her information with the group.

Ruth said she had been thinking about the community garden and she had come up with several questions that the group should be asking themselves. The following is list of the questions she could remember:

1. What is it that the group wants to do regarding the garden?
2. Where is the garden going to be?
3. How does the group go about identifying the place in the community that would be good for a community garden?
4. Who is going to do the physical work in the garden?
5. Why does Tehama Together want to have a community garden?

Ruth said as she thought about these questions she decided to start making calls to see if she could find some answers. She said she called a few people that she knew who had lived in the area for at least twenty years. One of the areas for a garden that was mentioned was the Kraft Children's Park, which had already been in the minds of the group. She said another area mentioned was at the end of Gilmore Street (near the Elks Club).

Ruth said that this led her to wonder if Tehama Together was thinking about having one very large garden or several smaller gardens in various locations in the county. Ruth said then, there was the whole idea of a design for the garden and who was going to do that.

Ruth said that the subject that was near and dear to her heart had always been getting the kids out of the classrooms, outside and working in the dirt. So Ruth said she starting calling the schools in the area. She said she had not been able to call all of them, but the ones she had contacted had been very excited about the notion of providing food for the community.

Ruth said that this brought up the question as to whether Tehama Together was going to have the community garden for a profit making enterprise, or a nonprofit, that would raise food for the community and give it away to people who were in need. She said that she felt that was one of the most important questions to

be answered in terms of getting the schools involved with the project.

Ruth said that she had had a long discussion with Ernie Graham, the Principal of Antelope School. She said he was very responsive and in fact, she found out he had a degree in agriculture. Ruth said she asked him questions such as, was there a garden at the school, was there a curriculum in place, and mainly what would the school need from Tehama Together if they became involved with a community garden. She said that one of the school's needs would be people who knew about gardening.

Ruth said that she and Mr. Graham discussed composting and recycling. She said he told her the school fed about 400 kids a day and there were many things that were thrown away that could be used for composting. There was a brief discussion among the committee about composting and how that could be handled among the group.

Lupe mentioned that the kids could become involved in the sorting of the things that would be used for composting and recycling. Ruth agreed that there were so many ways to get the kids involved in the process if the group was to work with the schools.

Ruth said another question she asked was, who would take care of the garden if it was in the school, i.e. who would pick the fruit, weed the garden, etc. Jerry said he was sure the kids would do it. He said he felt once the garden goes into the school the kids would take ownership and they would be out there taking care of the garden's needs. Ruth said that in her conversations with the various schools she thought they had not progressed to that point yet and that this was a very new idea to them. She felt that Tehama Together might need to be very personally involved in what they were doing with the school gardens in order to help them.

Jerry said that he did have a school community garden about ten years ago here in Red Bluff. It was with the Country Day School on the same grounds as the Bidwell School. It was a project garden for the special needs kids. He said they used the throw away things from the school cafeteria and grass from nearby, for composting. Jerry said there was also a teacher there that had a small vegetable garden for his students.

Chris asked Jerry what happened to the garden and Jerry said that the elementary school district did not encourage the program and the funds were used elsewhere. As a result the project fell apart. Jerry said that another community garden that was planned with the Discovery Center did not get off the ground either. He said there was just not much encouragement in the district for the student's project.

Chris asked Ruth if Mr. Graham seemed to be positive about the community garden and Ruth said yes, he was extremely interested. She said he defiantly wants to be involved. Ruth said she wanted to be sure the group understood that she was not advocating for the schools over other projects. This was just one of the ways she saw to get interest in the garden.

Lupe said she had downloaded an article about the planning guide for a community garden and she said Ruth had hit on almost everything in the article.

Lupe said it was nice to know that the possibility of working with the schools was there. Ruth said she thought the group could send someone to the schools to help educate them and Jerry said there was a lot of red tape that goes into that. Chris said she had wondered about that and she was interested in hearing about how difficult it might be. Jerry said there was red tape with the public, in a community garden on a school site. He said there was a lot of

bureaucratic red tape and liability. Mary said she thought it would have to be the school's project.

Lupe said that it seemed to her that they needed to take this to the whole Tehama Together group and ask the question, what kind of a garden do we want to grow. She said the questions would be are we growing trees, shrubs, vegetables or flowers. She asked just what was it that we want to grow.

Jerry said he thought the group should grow everything. He went on to say one should not only grow crops to make money, but one should grow crops to increase the fertility of the soil. He said their plan, when he was working with the Discovery Center, was to have a fuel forest that was fed by the restrooms so they could sell kindling wood. Jerry said Tehama Together could grow things for products to be used for crafts such as willow that could be grown to make charcoal for artist. He felt there was a variety of ways that the community garden could be useful to the community.

Chris asked just how much space does one need to be able to grow these crops and Lupe wanted to wait for that answer because she wanted to go topic by topic. Lupe asked who else would like to add something to the topic of what was to be grown.

Ruth wanted to say that right next to those ideas that were very good money making ideas, was the notion of growing food. She said the question would be growing food for whom. She wondered was it food for the group, was it food for the hungry or both. Jerry said possibly food for residents that live in apartments and have no access to a place to have a garden.

Chris wondered if that was something the group could do. She asked what if they picked a more impoverished area, went to them, and saw what their needs were and then planned a garden

for them. Jerry said that could certainly be an idea for one of the gardens.

Mary thought it was very important for the group to define who they wanted to grow the food for, because that would determine what kinds of food was grown. Mary said Ruth brought up a good point. She asked was the group going to be donating it to hungry people, selling it, or maybe a mixture of the two.

Lupe said that was the next question, what were the group's ideas and what would happen to the food that would be grown. Chris said she thought maybe that was the first question and Nan agreed. Lupe asked if they wanted to have a community garden that was divided up into plots, or were they talking about a garden that was one, big garden that everybody maintains, and then they would decide on the destination of the food. Jerry said he felt they should definitely divide it into plots, because of the ownership factor. He felt if you gave a person ownership of their space, it would be better cared for.

Chris asked if that would then depend on location, location, and location. They all agreed it would depend on the population of the community. Nan said a garden needs sunshine, water access and the ability to be able to compost. She felt those were things very specific to a garden. Nan continued to say she felt it made a difference if you were going to grow a whole orchard or a small plot.

Chris asked the question, what if the group targeted the city park in downtown Red Bluff (the children's park), for example. She asked if that park was given to Tehama Together and the group had full access to it, what would the group want to do with it? Mary asked how big was it. Nan said she thought that was the park the group had talked about at one of the first Tehama Together meetings but that nothing had ever come of it. Jerry thought that

the Children's Park was a great place for a community garden. Nan said her experience with community gardens was that people generally wanted to have their own plots and put in it what ever they wanted to grow. Nan said in one of the gardens she was working with in Modesto, a person grew bamboo and palm trees and they had their own little jungle. She went on to say that other people were growing tomatoes only, someone else was growing something else, and there were paths in between the plots. Chris said that was what she had in mind in her vision for the Tehama Together Community Garden. Nan said, as she recalled, no one had to rent their space and she felt if it were rented land or a charge was involved, it would limit some of the people that would be able to participate.

There was a brief discussion as to how the garden would be funded and Chris said she was sure there would be money. The grant that was being proposed by the Community Action Agency was discussed and Lupe said in the Wednesday Executive Committee meeting the group asked Mary if they might use her Neighbor's without Borders 501 (c) (3) status to apply for the grant. Mary and Lupe said they thought that would be able to happen.

Lupe clarified, in terms of what the group wanted to do, it seemed to her the consensus was that the group wanted to go ahead with the community garden, with individual plots and allow families to come in and each of them have an individual plot. Lupe asked if that was what the group wanted.

Ruth wanted to add to that, why should the group limit themselves to that. Jerry agreed. Ruth went on to say why not have a section that Tehama Together takes care of, grow as much as the group possibly could, with the idea of making it available to people in Red Bluff who were hungry. Jerry felt that that should definitely be one section of the garden, along with demonstration beds. He felt that would enhance the garden and he felt it would stir public

interest. Ruth said that this would leave the group with several avenues to follow up on in terms of getting support for the garden from the community.

Lupe asked what size of property would the group be looking for. Mary asked if they could hold on before that got to that question, because she felt they were still defining themselves. Mary said she liked the idea of having space and having plots to rent to individuals. Jerry added that it was important to have areas for the handicapped public. Chris said that the children's park was handicap accessible.

Mary said the group could even have a plot where, if the individual did not need to use it all, the person could partner up with someone else. Mary liked the idea of everyone who had a plot donating a portion to the hungry. She said they could have a list of persons in need, and each week pick families that would receive some food from the garden, a sort of community basket. Everyone loved that idea. Mary thought that there should be both, free and charged services generated by the garden, because she felt the group would want some revenue coming in, but not excessive. Lupe said she felt one of the good things about the idea was that it encourages everyone to give to the poor, as opposed to just giving a donation, for example, to Salvation Army. Mary said she thought that whenever there was a garden, there was usually too much grown and there would be plenty to share.

Lupe asked again what size garden they were thinking about and Ruth asked how large the Kraft Children's Park area was. Jerry thought it was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an acre and it was two levels. Chris said the upper part had full sun, but she was not sure about the lower level, since she had never been down there. She and Jerry continued by saying that there was water there and it had a natural windbreaker, because there were buildings on either side of the park area. Ruth said that someone who knows about growing

things needed to go look at that location. Jerry said the prevailing winds in this area were north and south and the natural windbreaker was very important. Jerry said he thought the park should be one of their locations and he said he liked the idea of a satellite location. There was some history discussed about the Kraft family and their contribution to Red Bluff. Chris said one of her visions was to bring life back to the park and since it was a children's park at one time she loved the idea of bringing the children back to the park. Chris said Kathy Moore gave her the name of the private owner that has the property now and she would contact them.

Chris said she loved the idea of the park and would love to see it as a garden, but she felt it depended on the soil and if it was feasible to grow things there.

Orle said there could be many different groups such as senior groups, school groups, etc. and it was agreed that outreach was needed. Ashley said that was why she felt it was so important to go to events like Food to Fork and all of the weekly Farmer's Markets.

The group discussed making sure they have a commitment from those in the group that want to tend the garden. Jerry said he did not think they would need much equipment and he said the group could even bring in a goat. He then told the story of a person who used to rent out his sheep to clean up different parts of the highway. He said the sheep even fertilized the soil as they maintained the growth. Lupe shared a little about what she knew of the benefits of goats and a project she was working on for Rancho Tehama.

Lupe said it appeared that the group had decided that they would like to get the Children's Park site, but she wondered if they should talk about some alternatives. Lupe said she had a couple of

ideas, one being a site down Sale Lane, past the Triple A building and another site down the same road by the Farmer's Credit Bureau. She said that what was nice about the one near the credit bureau was it was right across the street from low-income housing. Lupe said if these sites were not on the city water system she felt they could ask Triple A or the Farmer's Bureau if they could use their water source. Lupe said she would be willing to check on those two sites. Mary said she thought those sites were good because there would be a lot of traffic going by and the group agreed those sites would give them a lot of exposure.

Chris asked if they would have to do an environmental impact study if they do this project. Lupe said it would be privately owned so they would not have to do that.

Ruth said one of the things Ernie Graham, from Antelope School, mentioned was there was a lot of property around Red Bluff that had been sitting fallow.

Jerry brought up the possibility of advertising in the newspaper that Tehama Together was looking for property to start community gardens. Lupe said she thought they could do an article and submit it to the Daily News and she said she could also get an article in the Farm Bureau News.

The group discussed what length of time they would want to have the property, i.e., 99 year lease, two year lease and they agreed that it would depend on how much money they had to put into the property to get it ready for crops. This brought up the question about irrigation and whether or not individuals would be responsible for their own irrigation, or would the group as a whole take care of the irrigation for the whole site.

Lupe said another key issue was operation and someone else would have to take that on and plan it. Another issue was the funding, rules and regulations, relationship with schools,

Ruth said if the group provided food to people who could not afford it they would come to where the garden was and there would be a good chance that those same people would help with the garden. Someone said that that might be a prerequisite for getting food - to spend a few hours a week working in the garden. Ruth said she was not sure that it should be a rule and she wondered about the idea of a coop. It was agreed that the group was not planning a coop and that there would be exemptions set up for persons who could not volunteer time to work in the garden.

Lupe summed up the ideas that needed to be discussed such as, location, operation, funding, rule and regulations, budget and sponsors. Mary said it seemed that it was very important to get the 501 (c) (3) in as soon as possible and to define what the group was doing. She said all of the ideas would need to be gone over and discussed within the group. She said when they were more defined they would need to be submitted to an attorney to see if they were viable.

There was a discussion of when the schools would be asked to join and it was agreed that it might be better to keep it simple at first and get the schools involved after the group had more experience with the gardens. Lupe said she thought maybe they could get the kids in the schools composting and then they would be ready when the group was ready to start a garden with them. Ruth said that Antelope School was already composting and Jerry said they he thought Bidwell School was also.

Lupe said it boils down to how many people that the group could get to help with the garden and Ruth said that was why she was so interested in the schools because there were lots of kids

with lots of energy. At the same time that they were doing the labor, they would be getting the opportunity to be outside in the fresh air. Jerry said his grandchildren were a great example of that. He said he had a plot where they have planted potatoes, with their bare hands dug them up and then made French fries and hash browns out of them. Jerry said the kids were thrilled being involved and they could not get enough of the garden.

Lupe said that does take a lot of organization to get a group of kids ready to come into a garden and manage it. Mary said they were talking about interns coming in to the community garden that had been set up by Tehama Together and the interns would manage the kids and the plot on their own. Chris said there could be a community garden that was just used by the schools. Mary mentioned that liability was an important factor and Jerry said then you would get a waiver signed by the kid's parents, or it would be like a field trip and the kids would be covered by the school insurance.

Orle said that whatever they were writing up would be the basis for a proposal to the Community Action Agency for the grant. Orle mentioned that he felt the agency would be looking to give the money to groups helping the low-income population.

Lupe said another subcommittee they would need to have would be to plan for their clients, i.e., who would they be, how would they apply, how would the group do it. She said she thought that would be separate from the operation. Orle said he thought the group needed an outreach committee.

Lupe said that it seemed to her they needed to get some people to take one of the topics, flush it out and then bring it back to the group for discussion.

She said location was the first item and Orle wondered if there was other land in the same area near Sale Lane. Lupe said she would check with the Sales family to see. Ruth said she had taken Orle's list of community resources and all of the places she highlighted were either places for distribution of food or organizations that could possibly help. She said there was an enormous potential for the number of contacts that the group could use. Ruth suggested that the group would find, when writing for their grants, that the more the group was partnered with other groups, the better it would serve them.

Lupe said that so far their list included a location committee, an operation committee, a funding/ budget/sponsors committee and an outreach committee. Orle asked about Lupe's outreach to Rolling Hills Casino Lupe said she had a call in to Rolling Hills Casino social coordinator, who was interested in Tehama Together. Jerry mentioned that he wanted Native American involvement also, because of their heritage with seeds.

Lupe then went over the list of committees and listed below are some of the volunteers for those committees:

Operation Committee - Jerry Swart

Location Committee - Chris Pritchard

Funding/Budget/Sponsors Committee - Lupe Green

Outreach Committee - Orle Jackson ?????

There was quite a discussion about what belonged in the outreach committee, i.e., partnerships with schools, churches, girl and boy scouts, Salvation Army.

Orle said that he sees the group as providing plots in the community garden, for people to use as their own, to grow food and enjoy taking care of their own garden. He said he really did not see Tehama Together providing food to other organizations or

providing food for the hungry of Tehama County. Orle said that there were several organizations that gave out food to the hungry on a much larger scale than Tehama Together could manage. He saw the group's garden as offering a chance for people to help themselves by them providing their own food, for their own table.

Ruth felt that not providing for the hungry would be a mistake because of the 501 (c) (3) issue. She wondered why anyone would give the group land, if the group were not providing a service to the people who really needed help. There was a discussion about charging a small donation for use of a plot in the garden and/or donating a percentage of food grown to the needy,

Mary said in response to Orle's concern about giving food away on a large scale, that the group could have their own short list of people that they provide help to. She was sure that, as time went on, they could identify the families in need of help and that would be a way of helping and giving back to the community.

There was a brief discussion as to how this would be arranged, i.e., having everyone who had a plot in the garden donate some food (10%) to a basket each week. Mary thought the families receiving the food would be able to pick it up themselves, but Lupe felt that some of them might not have transportation and Tehama Together might have volunteers that would deliver to those families.

Ruth said the idea of creating plots for people to grow food was a much simpler and easier idea for the group, but she still wondered why someone would give the group land for just that idea. Lupe said that she did not think it would be a problem to get land. She felt people would want to donate and the group came up with several reasons why someone might want to donate or lease property to Tehama Together.

Lupe thought it was very important to keep the public part of the community garden for years to come, because at some point people may not have access to the food as they do now. She felt that by educating the public now, in recycling and organic gardening, that it would help them in the future. A discussion followed about the group saying that they were providing organically grown food. Ruth said they must be careful when choosing a location to be sure that the ground had lain fallow for a few years. This would assure them that the ground was free of contaminants.

Lupe said she would write up a one page concept paper discussing everything the group had talked about and she would put it on the website for all to read. She was not exactly sure when she could have that done since she was working on the bylaws and article of incorporation too.

Ruth was still concerned about how this the group was going to sell the idea of someone giving them property to use for the garden. Here are a few of the ideas mentioned were:

Tax deduction

There would be a sign naming the business as a sponsor of the community garden

The sign might encourage people to buy products

The land would be in better shape for growing

Might give a free community garden plot

Give baskets of food during the season

Lupe, in answer to Ruth's concerns, said that if you do not ask, you do not receive. She said all they could say was no, and one might get a lot of no's, but one keeps going until one gets a yes. The group felt there was a lot of interest in a community garden and as time went on there would be a lot more.

Ruth brought up another point that the group needed people who knew something about gardening. A discussion followed and Lupe said they might have workshops to teach people how to handle their gardens and Jerry said he teaches people all the time with his own garden. Ruth said that would be something to submit for the 501 (c) (3) because Tehama Together would be providing a service that would be teaching the community how to help themselves, rather than giving them a handout.

Mary told Ruth that the 501 (c) (3) was going to be very vague and would not contain much in the way of explanation as to how or what Tehama Together would be doing. Ruth was concerned that this all needed to be spelled out and a discussion followed as to how much simpler it was to apply for a 501 (c) (3) than it was when Ruth applied years ago.

Lupe added that a volunteer committee should be formed. Lupe said she had found an article on starting a community garden and she had put it on the Tehama Together website. She thought it would be a good idea for the persons that had volunteered for sub committees to read the article and bring back some feedback. Lupe said the article touches on just about everything they had been discussing.

Ruth asked Lupe how many acres the Sale Lane property included. Lupe guessed possibly two. Someone asked how big would a plot be and Jerry suggested one could start with 100 square feet – 10 by 10. He said that it depended on the total land space for the area. He said some may want more than one plot, but others would have all they could handle with the maintenance of one. He said one could grow a lot of things in a 100 square foot

Chris asked Jerry if the group acquired a piece of land would he look at it for the group. Jerry said the first things that would need to be done would be to test the soil and check the water

source. He figured that would cost less than one hundred dollars. Chris asked Jerry if he would be willing to come and lay out plans for the garden and Jerry said he would be glad to. Lupe asked Jerry if he thought he could give the group an estimate of the cost of the irrigation system and he said yes. Orle asked about soil testing and a discussion followed as to when and why soil testing was done.

Ruth asked if raised beds would be allowed and Jerry said sure, but those kinds of things would be defined in the rules and regulations for the garden.

Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 PM.

Written by: Colleen Sheehan

