

Tehama Together
General Meeting Minutes
Saturday, February 7, 2009 – 1:00 PM

Opening:

Chris Pritchard opened the General Meeting of Tehama Together on February 7, 2009 at 1:00 PM at 20 Antelope Boulevard, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

Present:

Elmer Eggers, Joan K. Bell, Judy Burlison, Mike Streight, Cathy Streight, Rod Green, Lupe Green, Louise Gerrudette, Sushie Rose Hahnel, Ashley Stewartwall, Hannah Engel, Tina Bacon, Mary Shaver, Tom Boullion, Chris Pritchard, Gi Calderon, Taita Calderon, Joan Gerber, Don Gerber, Orval Strong, James M. Donnelley, Sara M. Reed, Ruth Deike, Pat Alvarez, Jan Ivanoff, Colleen Sheehan, Gregg Gillies, Stan Morgan

Welcome:

Chris Pritchard welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the new people in the group. For those who were new to the group she began with a brief explanation as to what the goals of Tehama Together were. One of the group suggested that that the white pad could be used so the group would get a visual of the entities that are under the umbrella of Tehama Together. Lupe Green volunteered to be the verbal recorder for the meeting. There were questions and answers as Chris continued to share with the group. Chris encouraged the group to share their backgrounds, expertise and interests with the group. She thought a short bio from each person could be used by the Executive Committee for the selection of members whose expertise could be helpful in certain projects.

Introductions:

Chris then introduced the members of the Executive Committee and the Chairpersons of each committee. Chris suggested that the new people in the group might want to sit in on one of the committee meetings to be held at the end of this meeting. Chris wanted to let the new people in the group know that they were welcome to join a committee if they were interested.

Contact List:

Chris distributed the Tehama Together list of names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to the group and she encouraged the group to communicate with one another.

Announcements:

It was announced that Phil Dynan, Treasurer of Tehama Together, had resigned for personal reasons. He spoke to the Executive Committee at their meeting on February 4, 2009.

New Officers/Committees:

Treasurer: Since Phil Dynan resigned; the Treasurer position has become available. Chris Pritchard nominated Colleen Sheehan to be the Treasurer and the group elected her. Her position will now be Secretary/Treasurer.

Publicity Committee: Chris spoke of the need to have a Publicity Committee. Tina Bacon and Lupe Green were both interested in serving on this committee. They each shared a little of their history with the group. Both agreed that they did not mind sharing the position of chairperson if the group agreed. The group agreed and Tina and Lupe were elected as co-chairs of the Publicity Committee. Tina mentioned she had already contacted the media to get the word out about Tehama

Together's Saturday meetings. Lupe told the group she has had a lot of interaction with the media. They will meet together to discuss their roles and report to the Executive Committee.

Webmaster:

Chris announced that Ashley Stewartwall has volunteered to be Webmaster. It was suggested that communication is vital between the group and the Webmaster and that information can be directed to Ashley through the committee chairs.

Mission Statement:

At the previous General Meeting, two versions of the Mission Statement were distributed to the group for study at home. Chris asked if anyone had come back with any ideas. The group asked that the two versions be read and comments followed. The group agreed the Mission Statement should be a clear description of Tehama Together, not only for the public, but also for requesting a 501c3. Ruth Deike wondered if we could have written input from each member of the group in order to gather information and suggestions to use for the Mission Statement. It was suggested that we use one of the free forums on the Internet to get feedback from the community. Several in the group wanted to be sure that the Mission Statement makes it clear that all are included (race, creed, gender, religion, etc.).

Advisory Board:

Chris said that the Executive Committee thought it important to create an advisory board. Ruth Dieke and Nan Renish have volunteered in the advisory capacity to take us through the 501c3 process.

501c3:

Ruth met with the Executive Committee on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 to share some of her ideas about the 501c3. She said she made an appointment with Dennis Albright, a local attorney, and she felt it important for the Executive Committee to be there for that meeting. Lupe Green told the group she had a copy of her own 501c3 and would bring it to the Executive Committee so they can see how she put hers together.

Community Resource Committee:

Orle would like to see our center be an information and referral source for the community. He and his committee will go out and meet with organizations in the community. He is also interested in fundraising and he had a few suggestions. One of his ideas was the possibility of renting space to another organization, which would help with expenses. He invited anyone who might be interested in community outreach to meet with his committee at the end of this meeting. Lupe suggested the Internet as a source to obtain information from the community. Orle agreed, but he wants to be sure there is face-to-face communication with the organizations, along with using the questionnaire. There was a thought that there is an advantage to hooking up with other organizations, one advantage is in writing grants. It was also mentioned again the need to reach out to other ethnic groups.

Natural Food Market Committee

Sushie said the name Food Co-op will be changed to Natural Food Market. She explained the reason for the change was that she has found in her research that joining the National Co-op Association might cost as much as \$50,000. Since Tehama Together will be a nonprofit organization it will not have the funds to join that group, she wants to avoid any legal issues that could arise from using the term co-op. There was much discussion about co-ops. Some of the group thought we

would not have to join the National Co-op, but could use the term co-op in our name. Again, Sushie thought it would be best to avoid any conflict. She said there could still be the concept of a co-op. Sushie passed around a list that she wants interested parties to fill out. This will give her an idea of the kinds of items she should order. She invited interested persons to meet with her committee at the end of this meeting. There were a few more suggestions as to a name for the food entity. A question of areas that would be included for suppliers was discussed. It was stated that a one hundred mile radius would be imposed, with the exception of items that cannot be purchased locally. Someone asked if there would be a limit as to produce sold. The answer was no, why limit ourselves?

Money Issues:

The group was very excited about the market. Some wanted to start signing up now and wanted to pay for membership right away. Colleen said no to the idea of taking in money at this time. She said, “we are not ready to collect money – we must meet with the attorney first”. Ruth agreed that the flow of money has to be discussed further. She said there is a need to establish a budget and how the funds will be taken in. This will be determined by obtaining business plans from each entity. It was noted that we are starting with volunteers and that we are open to salaries later. Lupe will bring in a nonprofit sample for us to look at.

Publicity Committee:

Tina Bacon said the PSA’s will be out there in the community by next week.

Education Workshop Committee:

Chris said many people have shown an interest in presenting and participating in the workshops. Ruth and Nan said they would like the tutoring to be free. Chris said her committee welcomes new people and

invited any interested members of the group to join them at the end of this meeting.

Coffee House Committee:

Gregg Gillies arrived just as the group was breaking up into committees. He will share after his committee meets at 2:45 pm.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, 2009 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

The next General Meeting will be Saturday, February 14, 2009 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment to Committee Meeting:

Before the group adjourned to their specific groups Chris spoke about what she thought the committee's focus should be. She said the proposed building site for Tehama Together was being shown to other prospective renters and there was a need to take a proposal to the landlord by next week. She would like the committees to be prepared to give the Executive Committee a report on a tentative cost to get them up and running. Someone asked if a fundraising committee had been formed and Chris said that was the next step.

Chris then went on to describe and show the group the proposed areas for the Food Market, Coffee House and Workshops. She adjourned the group at 2:00 PM to meet with their specific committees. She said anyone who wanted to sit in on a meeting was welcome and the committee chairs should meet back in the General Meeting at 2:45 PM.

The General Meeting reconvened at 3:00 PM on Saturday, February 7, 2009.

Committee Reports:

Coffee House Committee:

Chair Gregg Gillies reported that his committee is limited as to what it can and cannot do because of the space issue. Gregg will contact the Health Department to see what licensing is required, as well as rules and regulations that must be applied to run the Coffee House. Gregg said there is no access to water for the Coffee House in this building. He is concerned with the possible cost of getting water to the coffee area. The committee suggested putting in a sofa, rocker and some chairs to begin making the area comfortable for members as they come together. Gregg said he is willing to volunteer his time and they could start with air pots for coffee and tea. There would be a suggested donation instead of charging for the coffee. Someone in the group said they have an espresso machine to donate. There was a suggestion from the group to check with bottled water suppliers for donations of water. We could use the hot and cold container supplied by the suppliers. Someone else mentioned that if we used water from the supplier there could be a monthly donation from members based on use of water. It was suggested that since there are issues with the water in this building we might want to look at other locations. Chris said she has been unofficially looking for other locations and thought we all could keep our eyes open for an available space. Chris went on to share her thought that any place we choose should be able to flow with all the entities. Parking for this location was also discussed. Lupe Green suggested we keep the discussion to a minimum so we would have time to hear from all the committees. Gregg continued with the bare minimum list of items they will need to start the Coffee House: airpots, coffee (regular and decaf), tea, cups, condiments, some sort of Danish, counter-space, water, plastic ware, napkins, a coffee brewer, a refrigerator if we serve juices and seating. A ball park figure for getting up and running the center just for

the members is \$150.00 to \$200.00. Gregg felt this was as far as he could go with a budget right now. Gregg said that once we are clear and ready to move forward with the public Coffee House he will be “knocking on business doors for donations”. His idea is to let the businesses know we will publicize them by using some kind of a sponsoring board in the Coffee House. This would be one of the advantages to donating to the center. Gregg said he plans to contact the Health Department this week and he will share that information with the Executive Committee.

The group then discussed contributions and donations. There were questions as to whether or not they could accept donations and contributions to the center. Would they be able to move forward without the 501c3 in place? Chris said some of these questions would be answered when the Executive Committee meets with the attorney on Tuesday.

Community Resource Committee:

Chair Orle Jackson reported that his committee spoke about six things. The committee plans to go through the current community resource list to make sure the organizations are still valid and up to date. The committee will be developing a form to use on line for community information and a form to take to the face-to-face interviews. They spoke of putting a forum on the Tehama Together website that would be able to forward the community to other local resources. The supplies needed for this committee would consist of a computer, a small print budget and gas money. The committee would like to see the center provide information and referral to the community and wanted to be sure to would follow up on the services provided by our referrals. Orle mentioned that income could be generated by renting out space to another organization.

Natural Food Market Committee:

Chair Sushie Rose said her people knew many local suppliers and they will be generating a list for her to use for the budget. She said she would prepare a list of supplies she will need to get up and running such as shelving, bins, refrigeration, etc. She said that Gregg Gillies has agreed to get her some information from the Health Department when he contacts them.

Education Workshops Committee:

Chair Chris Pritchard reported that there was a lot of excitement among the members of her committee. She feels the potential is great and it will generate its own energy. Her group also spoke of renting out a room to another organization in the community. She said there is a "calendar we need to fill". Her committee discussed having an open house to introduce the center to the community. The items needed for the workshops would be tables, chairs, materials and of course getting the building in shape. Chris said the walls need color and a lively discussion followed as to how that could be accomplished. It was thought the art department at the high school could be contacted; visions of a mural on the wall depicting the flavor of the community were discussed. Chris said her group spoke about forming a space committee that would deal with the overall renovation of the building. Lupe Green said her son is a professional video person and he might be able help in some way. Lupe again said she would bring in her examples of her business plan and 501c3. She said she would try to adapt them to our organization if that would help. Lupe also suggested that the group start documenting the hours they spend donating their time to the organization. These hours can be used for writing grants. Ruth Deike said she had done some calculations and the workshops might be able to generate around \$1000.00 per month.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 PM

