

Tehama Together
Executive Committee Minutes
June 3, 2009

Call to Order: Orle Jackson called the Executive Committee Meeting to order at 1:02 PM on June 3, 2009 located at 332 Pine Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

Present: Orle Jackson, Chris Pritchard, Colleen Sheehan, Nan Renish
Absent: Lupe Green, Kathy Moore, Gregg Gillies

Introductions:

Everyone knew each other so there was no need for introductions.

Adoption of Minutes:

There was a motion by Chris Pritchard to adopt the General Committee Potluck Minutes for May 20, 2009. Colleen Sheehan seconded the motion and with the approval of the committee, the minutes were adopted.

Announcements:

Resignation by Colleen Sheehan:

Colleen Sheehan announced that she had sent an e-mail to the Executive Board submitting her resignation as Secretary of Tehama Together. She is also resigning from the Community Resources Network Committee. Colleen told the group she had ambivalent feelings about resigning, but she felt this was for the best. Orle Jackson, as Vice Chairperson for Tehama Together, suggested that since Colleen's resignation would not take place until the end of June, the group need not accept her resignation at this time. The group felt that this might give her time to change her mind. She thanked them for their support.

Sign In Sheet:

Orle made sure everyone signed the sign in sheet.

Information Card:

Orle made sure that everyone had made out an information card.

Summer Meeting Schedule:

Orle said he thought it was a good idea to continue to remind everyone of the dates for the meetings so he included the summer schedule in the agenda.

Potluck General Meetings: – June 8, July 6, August 10, (6 PM) at Red Bluff Recreation Area

General Meetings: – June 22, July 20, August 24 (1 PM) at Business Connections, 332 Pine Street

Executive Meetings: – June 17, July 1, July 15, August 5, August 19 – (1 PM) at Business Connections, 332 Pine Street

Elder Services Coordinating Council:

Orle said the Elder Services Coordinating Council has included him on their agenda for July 22, 2009. Orle mentioned that it would a good idea if a couple of people from the Executive Committee went with him to the meeting on that date.

Community Action Agency:

Orle said he is on the Community Action Agency's agenda for June 18, 2009.

Field to Fork:

Orle said he had not spoken to Kathy Moore and he wondered if Chris had spoken to her. Chris replied that she had received an e-mail from Kathy stating that she had been very busy. Chris said Kathy was still interested in Tehama Together, but she was busy organizing the Food to Fork event scheduled for June 27, 2009. Chris said she e-mailed Kathy and asked her about the possibility of Tehama Together co-sponsoring the event with Slow Foods.

Unfinished Business:

Fourth of July Celebration:

Orle suggested the group pass on the Fourth of July event this year. Colleen suggested that as more people come to the potlucks there might be more people to help with an event next year. Chris said that she and Colleen would be out of town the week of the 4th and would not be available to help with an event. Orle suggested the group would still be able to participate later on in the Farmer's Market. Colleen made a motion that the Fourth of July Event planning be cancelled and be rescheduled for next year. Chris seconded it and the group approved the motion. Chris said she would volunteer to collect any information she could find on this year's Fourth of July Celebration so the group will have it for the planning of an event next year.

Review of Paired Weighting Results:

Orle said he had not put the results of his needs assessment on the computer. He passed out a hand written copy to the group. The group agreed that this had been a very interesting and

worthwhile exercise. He explained that ten people had completed the form and the scores were as follows:

Summary	Need	Interest
Coffee Shop	73 26%	73 26%
Education	40 14%	58 21%
Ag/Garden	95 34%	92 33%
Comm. Service	68 25%	56 20%

Orle said he thought the form showed why the group had been having such long discussions. The results showed that the group was going in several directions. Both Nan and Orle said the results did not surprise them.

Nan said she thought that the discussions among the group had always been the community garden first, and then the Coffee Shop. She said the other things were added on as the group went along. Nan commented that her expectation had been that the group would start with the community garden. She thought that the garden seemed to be the least legal and technical aspect of the entities discussed. Nan thought anyone could get some land donated to them and start a community garden, therefore there would not have to be a lot of official oversight. She felt that the Coffee Shop could evolve from there. Nan said she thought that it was understood that the Coffee Shop was much more technically involved and the group agreed with her.

Orle wondered what the group saw the community garden being. He asked how the group envisioned the garden working. He wondered if they were thinking the group would be the gardeners, or were they looking for other people to come in and do the gardening. Nan said she thought it would be open to whoever wanted to participate. She said she felt that it ought to be open to the community. She felt when people get together, they start to

get acquainted, they help each other, and pretty soon, it evolves into a community project. Orle wondered if it would be something like marking off plots and each person, or group, would get their own space. Nan said it would depend on where and how much land you have to work with.

Nan mentioned there was a group called Pangea at the Red Bluff Park (not the one by the river) that had lots of land. Mary Shaver, one of the Pangea group, had come to some of Tehama Together's general meetings. Nan said Mary had offered a possible piece of their land for a community garden. A lively discussion followed as to what it would be like to have everyone getting together in a community garden setting, planting whatever they wanted to and even decorating their own piece of the garden, if that is what they wanted to do. The group agreed that the garden should have a sense of freedom, with little or no rules, if possible. Nan said that this would be a good beginning and would not require all the legal things that had seemed to be slowing down Tehama Together's progress.

Orle asked about the group and there was some discussion about what others knew about Pangea and their worldwide event scheduled for this fall. The group thought that if there were a possibility to have a community garden in that park it would be beneficial to both Tehama Together and the park. The community might come together in a very positive way.

Colleen asked Orle what his idea of a community garden was. Chris mentioned that Orle had suggested there might be some non-profit organizations in the county that might want to get involved. Nan said that she had thought of that also. She said that if the group could secure a place that would be available for at least a year, or hopefully a much longer period, they could then let places like the schools, churches and other organizations know about the opportunity for them to participate in a community

garden. She said it would be great to get some publicity. They could have the media out to take pictures of the community coming together in such a positive way.

Chris said this was something the group could focus on. She said that all the group would have to do would be to call a meeting to tell everyone that the group was getting ready to have a community garden. Chris said she was sure that would bring a lot of people together from the Tehama Together's list of interested people. She said that she felt it was all the other stuff that had turned the group off. She felt if they focused on this, that Tehama Together could move quickly. Colleen was concerned that Kathy Moore thought it was too late to get a garden going for this year. Chris said that this would be the start of a garden by calling for everyone to get together to discuss how it was to be done. Nan said that it is not too late for people to start planning for the fall and winter crops. She suggested there was no time that you cannot start a garden. She said one just has to be careful what you plant and how you plant it.

Chris reemphasized how the needs assessment form had really shown what the group was interested in and she thought that Jerry Swart's presentation was very worthwhile and well received by the group. Colleen said that she was typing up Jerry's presentation and would try to have copies (after Jerry approves it) for the potluck on Monday.

Orle said there were several meetings coming up and he thought it would be a good idea to take one of those meetings and make it a community garden meeting. The group discussed appropriate times. Nan said she was not available Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday at 6 PM because she teaches at Shasta College on those evenings. Chris wondered if they should have a Saturday community garden meeting. She said they could even have it at her house and since she just planted a garden, they could

use her garden as a talking point. Orle wanted to try to keep to the meeting schedules that were in place. The group decided on June 22, at 1 PM for the community garden meeting. The meeting will be held at Chris Pritchard's home at 13245 Hwy 99, Red Bluff. Orle said it would be important to have Mary Shaver there and wondered what her schedule was. Nan said she would call her to find out if she would come to the meeting on June 8th and the meeting on June 22nd.

Colleen spoke about transportation and getting people who do not have cars to the meetings. Chris said that she transports people all the time and was sure that others would be glad to get people without transportation to meetings. Orle said he wanted to be sure that Jerry Swart, Kathy Moore and Mary Shaver were informed about the meetings. Chris said she did not think it was going to be a problem getting people to come to the community garden meeting. Nan said she would inform Tina Bacon because she is interested in the garden. Chris thanked Nan for helping the group focus on the garden.

Orle wondered if the group was putting too much emphasis on the educational part of the organization. Nan said she thought that that would be the very last thing to fall into place, once everything gets started. Chris said she is Chair of that entity and she agreed that it has to wait until the group has an established Coffee House. Nan said the garden should come first because it is the easiest and it will draw people in and get them thinking about natural foods. Next would be the Coffee House, where people can come together to discuss what ever they are interested in and she felt that then the educational portion would follow naturally. Orle wondered if the group might want to combine the educational part of the organization with the Coffee House, as a concept. He said he had always felt that the Coffee House, in itself, was a hard sell. Orle said the Coffee House was really a gathering place, a center where things could happen. He felt the educational program was a

part of it and if the group would get rid of the educational part, as a separate entity, and combine it with the Coffee House; it could strengthen the coffee house – center concept. Chris said she had always seen those two as combined. Orle said when he goes to meetings to talk about Tehama Together he has four different entities to explain. Colleen said Orle has the task of facing the community and trying to explain who we are and what we do. She said if the group has had such a hard time trying to explain who and what we are, it must be difficult to explain to the community. The group agreed and a discussion followed as to how to streamline their activities.

Nan said she had always thought that the coffee house concept was a good idea and especially as a sell to the community. She felt it would bring people together for discussions, classes; there are all kinds of ways to bring people together. Chris said that the idea would be to promote it more as a center rather than a coffee house. The group agreed that sounded reasonable. Colleen said the Coffee House was what the group had always visualized, but it was the center as a whole, that the group usually discussed.

Colleen said that when Orle had created his needs assessment, he had used the word socialize to describe the place to gather. She said that did not feel right to her because that was not what the coffee house concept really was, as far as she was concerned. The group looked at the needs assessment again and Orle said they were really talking about combining one through four of the proposed program objectives. Instead of using the word socialize the word collaborate (for lack of a better word) was used. The group agreed that this did not actually change anything as far as the group as a whole. Chris was still the Chair of the educational program. Chris said the group could just start referring to it as the Center. Orle thought it would be a lot easier to sell.

Chris said numbers five and six seemed to flow together and her thought was that numbers seven and eight were also a part of the Center. Colleen suggested they might not be because Orle was more oriented to going out and helping other service organizations. She said that would be completely separate from the Center and Orle agreed. Colleen said her visualization of the information and referral service was in the Center. She pictured herself in the Center with people coming and going, getting information off the bulletin board, asking questions, looking for all kinds of information. That was her idea of helping the community through the dissemination of information in an actual place.

Nan said the Senior Center has information and referral, but she wondered if people go there if they are not seniors. She said a friend of hers had put out a book of referral sources but she is retired now and she is not sure if the reference source out there anymore. Nan said she would like to know what is already out there in the way of referral sources. She mentioned that Shasta County puts out a wonderful referral book, but she has not seen one for Tehama County. Colleen said those were models and she mentioned that since she has become involved with Tehama Together she has been researching information and referral sources. She said she has been surprised that there were so many in the county. She felt the problem was that it is often hard to know where they are and how to locate what you need, when you need it. Colleen said that she has always thought that the unique thing the Center could bring to the community was a quick and easy way to connect them with everything available in the county. Nan made the comment, it would be a place to refer them to the referral, and the group agreed with that concept. Colleen said she thought that is what the Chamber of Commerce should be doing. The group discussed the concept of the Center with bulletin boards, with up to date notices, friendly people gathered, friendly people giving help and encouragement to others. Colleen said that is where the volunteers will be helpful. She said that the people

that volunteer would be there because they want to be there and they enjoy being in the Center. Nan, who is a volunteer coordinator, said volunteers are so much freer to help people. The restrictions and rules of many of the organizations sometimes prevent the public from getting what they need in the way of information. Nan said she had worked in a small library where she had developed a literacy program for adults. She said that little library was completely run by volunteers. Nan said they did that year after year because they loved what they were doing. The group agreed that is what it takes to have a successful organization. Nan said she felt this group could do that. She felt that when it gets to the point where there are no restrictions by all of those things the group must do to organize, there would be more volunteers. Chris said that in the Center, there will be a book exchange also and Nan and Colleen said they were saving books for it.

The group agreed that they were making progress in this meeting and Chris wondered if a move needed to be made for anything they had discussed. Nan said there had been a move for the gardening meeting and that meeting will be the general meeting on the 22nd at Chris' home. Orle said that he thought they had made a good step toward looking at their priorities.

Facility Information:

Orle said he had spoken to Lupe just before the meeting and there was no new information about the facility they were looking at. She is still waiting for the information. There was a brief discussion about the facility before the group moved on.

Chris said that Lupe had called her to ask her to take over the duty of finding out about the old Bare Stage building on Walnut Street. There is an art store there now and there had been some discussion that they might allow Tehama Together to share a part

of their facility. Chris said she had not looked into that yet. Orle mentioned it was near Phil Dynan's new location and he wondered if Phil might have some room for Tehama Together. The group did not think that was a good idea to ask him. Orle suggested that everyone should go to his open house this Friday, and directions to his location were discussed.

Chris described a dream she had about the McMann's building in downtown Red Bluff. She said it was a very large facility, new, carpeted and completely ready to move in. She said it had a mezzanine for a coffee lounge, downstairs could house the café, and it had a basement. She felt it was perfect. She said the building is for sale or lease. The group spoke about being on the lookout for money for such a project. Orle wondered if Chris would take on the responsibility of looking into that location. She said she would do that. Orle went on to say that there were many empty buildings vacant in this area. Colleen mentioned that the owners often time leave a building empty for tax purposes rather than donate it or lease it a small price. Chris said it was important to keep a positive attitude and an open mind because she feels the law of attraction works, both positively and negatively.

Chris also mentioned the Snack Shack on Main Street that some of the group looked had looked at. She said she would follow up on both of those facilities. Chris said Gregg Gillies was very interested in the Snack Shack. Orle wondered if anyone had heard from Gregg lately and Chris said she had not heard from him since the last meeting he attended which was several weeks ago.

E-mail newsletter:

Orle said that Lupe wants to start an e-mail news letter and she has been in touch with Ashley to see if she will make a template to use on the website. Chris said she thought she wanted to start the newsletter in September.

New Business:

Planning for June 8th Potluck Meeting

Chris thought it was too soon to have another potluck. June 8th was the next potluck and Colleen said the reason it was planned for the 8th was that the group had decided that the end of the month was not a great time for a potluck since it was so close to the first of the month payday for many people. Orle said he thought the group should go ahead with the potluck. He felt that it was important to keep the meetings consistent and the group agreed. They all agreed that the Red Bluff Recreational area was a great spot.

Orle wanted to know what they could do for a program. He said when he makes calls to the people on the list he likes to let them know what the agenda is for the meeting. Chris wondered if they should talk more about the community garden. Colleen asked if they could have the community garden at the potluck and Nan reminded the group that she taught classes on Mondays. Then the group remembered that was why they were going to have the garden meeting at the 1 pm general meeting so that Nan could be there. They all agreed they wanted Nan to be able to attend the special garden meeting so the discussion went back to deciding what to present. Chris said they could ask Jerry to talk again. Jerry had mentioned that he had a lot more information to be shared. Nan thought he might be able to talk about fall plantings since spring planting season was over. Nan said there is a lot to do to get ready for the fall planting season and he could tell us how to get ready. The group spent a few minutes sharing how much they enjoyed Jerry's presentation and how much he seemed to enjoy his plants.

Chris asked Orle what he had in mind and Orle said he would like something different. Orle said he would really like to get Lana Kitchel to come to a meeting because she was so into all the things we were. The group said that Lana has had a lot on her plate and they knew she was not available at this time. Chris mentioned Mary Shaver. Chris said she could talk about her group and the group could ask her about the community garden idea. Nan said she felt that would bring many people into an awareness of what Mary's group was all about. Orle was a little concerned about identifying with Mary's group (much as the group had been concerned about meeting at Bethel Church) and how the community might react. Colleen, Nan and Chris assured Orle that the group was nothing to be concerned about and in fact they were sure that this would help the community feel more comfortable with Mary's group. The group agreed that this is what Tehama Together was all about; bringing together people with different ideas and helping a diverse community come together.

The discussion continued as to the benefits of a possible spot for a community garden donated by Mary's group, i.e., Pangea's plan to have a community building for public use, the exposure their huge event might give Tehama Together. The event they are having in the fall is an international event and the idea that Tehama Together might help the community become more aware seemed to appeal to the committee. The group agreed they would like to have Mary speak at the potluck. Nan agreed to call her and ask her to come to both the June 8th and June 22nd meetings

Orle asked Colleen about the work she had done on the Articles of Incorporation. She told him that she had completed the few pages but the real work is on the Bylaws and Business Plan. She said those two documents have to be completed before the Articles can be submitted. She said she had completed as much as she could on the Bylaws and she had turned them over to Lupe to work on. She was not sure how much Lupe had gotten done on

them. Colleen told Orle she would bring everything she had on the 501 (c) (3) material to the potluck meeting on Monday. Orle said he wanted to start moving ahead on them and he thought this should be an item on the agenda for the general meeting. The group did not agree because they felt the 501 (c) (3) work should be done by the Executive Committee. They felt it was much too business oriented for the general meeting. Orle agreed and he said he would put it on the agenda for the June 17th executive meeting.

Orle asked Nan if she had experience putting together a 501 (c) (3). Nan said she had and Orle asked the group if they could make that a major priority on the agenda for the next executive meeting. Nan said she could be there and Orle wanted to call Ruth and ask her to come to that meeting. The group said Ruth was not available at this time due to her busy schedule. She is traveling for business and has her summer committed to other things. Orle said he would like to notify her because when he spoke to her last month she was still very interested in the group. Chris said that Ruth is on the Executive Committee and therefore is getting all the correspondence that everyone else does.

Colleen remembered that Ruth had always told the group that the needs of the community should be considered and Colleen thought that Ruth would really like the needs assessment tool that Orle had put together. Nan said Ruth was right, if you are going to ask for money you are going to have to show that there is a need. She said that is the hard part and that is why she thinks that starting with the garden is the way to go. She said the group would find there would be a few folks who do not mind working on the business end of the organization and when it is ready, the rest of the group can see the results. Nan said a group really must have some kind of a track record before anyone will give them money. She said just an idea is not enough. There must be something to show when someone asks, what have you done? Chris said the group is now starting to do some things such as, Field to Fork and

possibly the Farmer's Market. Nan said the Tehama Together has a good basis but needs something more concrete. There was some discussion of other materials the group has collected to become more informed about putting together a 501 (c) (3).

Orle asked if there was anything else for the agenda besides Mary's presentation. Chris said there should be a backup in case Mary is not available. (my tape recorder stopped running so I am not sure if we ever came up with a backup plan)

Timeline for June-August:

Orle said he was working on putting a timeline together for June through August, using the list of categories the group suggested in their last brainstorming meeting. He felt that having a timeline would help the group stay focused and to move forward more quickly. There will be more discussion on the subject at the executive meeting.

Electing New Secretary:

The subject of electing a new secretary was tabled until the end of June.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Action Items:

Colleen's Resignation: group at end of month

Elder Services Coordination
Council Meeting

Orle Jackson

Community Action Agency	Orle Jackson
Follow up with Kathy Moore	Chris Pritchard
Information on this year's July Fourth Celebration	Chris Pritchard
Call Mary Shaver	Nan Renish
Call Tina Bacon	Nan Renish
501 (c) (3) information	Colleen Sheehan
Jerry Swart's Presentation Notes	Colleen Sheehan
notice to members about meetings	Lupe Green
Bare Stage Building follow-up	Chris Pritchard
McMann Building follow-up	Chris Pritchard
Snack Shack follow-up	Chris Pritchard
Waiting for packet about facility	Lupe Green
Template for Newsletter	Ashley Stewartwall
Newsletter	Lupe Green
Timeline for June-August	Orle Jackson