

Tehama Together
General Potluck Committee Minutes
June 8, 2009

Call to Order: Orle Jackson called the General Potluck Committee Meeting to order at 6:25 PM on June 8, 2009 located at Red Bluff Recreational Park

Present: Orle Jackson, Chris Pritchard, Colleen Sheehan, Mary Shaver, McKayla Pritchard, Sam Pritchard

Introductions:

Orle said he thought everyone knew each other so no introductions were necessary.

Call for Additional Agenda Items:

No agenda items were added.

Announcements:

Resignation by Colleen Sheehan:

Orle announced that Colleen Sheehan had submitted her resignation as Secretary of Tehama Together at the executive committee meeting on June 3, 2009. She was also resigning from the Community Resources Network Committee. Her resignation does not take effect until the end of June and Orle said the Executive Committee was hoping she would change her mind.

Sign In Sheet:

Colleen said she would sign everyone in on the sign up sheet since there were only a few people at the meeting.

Information Card:

Orle mentioned the information cards and Mary Shaver wondered what they were. Orle explained the use of the card to Mary and since Lupe Green was not at the meeting due to illness Orle could not give Mary a card to fill out.

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

General Meetings: – June 22 at Chris Pritchard's home at 13245 Hwy 99, Red Bluff – 1 PM – July 20, August 24 – 1 PM – at Business Connections, 332 Pine Street, Red Bluff

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 had included him on their agenda for July 22, 2009. Orle mentioned that he hoped a couple of people from the Executive Committee would attend with him.

Community Action Agency:

Orle said he was on the Community Action Agency's agenda for June 18, 2009 to make a presentation about Tehama Together.

Field to Fork:

There was a brief discussion about the Field to Fork event. The event will take place at the Red Bluff River Park on June 27, 2009. Chris said that Kathy Moore would be mailing her the information she requested regarding Tehama Together possibly co-sponsoring the event.

Fourth of July Celebration:

At the last executive committee meeting the group agreed to cancel the Fourth of July event for this year. The group felt there was not enough time to plan the event. There was agreement among the group that they hoped to participate in next year's celebration.

Unfinished Business:

Program Prioritization Feedback:

Orle explained briefly the process the group had followed at the last general meeting in order to complete the needs assessment form that he had put together. The results 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%

Facility Explorations:

Orle asked Chris if she had followed up on the properties she had spoken about at the executive meeting. She apologized and said she had not done that yet.

Orle said he had visited Phil Dynan's new art gallery and since he was in the neighborhood, he made a visit to the old Bare Stage building. There had been a suggestion at one of the meetings that that building might be a possible location for Tehama Together. It was now occupied and Orle said it did not look like it would be something that would accommodate Tehama Together.

New Business:

Agenda Items for June, July and August:

Orle said he was interested in developing a timeline for the next three months. He said he had put together a list of summer meeting times and he gave out a copy of the list to the group. Orle said that he had hoped there would be more people at the meeting so they could go over the list and give their feedback.

Orle went on to say that at the general meetings he felt that there should be business (bringing people up to date) and then some kind of presentation. He used the example of the presentation given by Jerry Swart on Starting Seeds 101. There was a brief discussion about Jerry's presentation since Mary had not attended that meeting.

Orle said that the Executive Committee's task would be to fill in the blanks on the list. Some of the items to be put on the time line were, developing a timeline for the application for the 501 (c) (3), developing a clearer idea of Tehama Together's program plans,

and generally to get the things that need to be accomplished on the list.

Chris asked if this was something that they should think about and then come back with ideas to present to the Executive Committee. Orle said that was a great idea. Mary asked if the group was still going to go ahead with the 501 (c) (3) and Orle said yes. Chris said the group does have an attorney but the group had decided to form a committee to deal with the 501 (c) (3) first.

Orle asked Mary the name of her organization. Mary said her organization was called Pangea World Community. She said much of her 501 (c) (3) experience had come from working with Pangea; however, she did have experience with another group called Neighbors without Borders. Orle asked several more questions relating to the Pangea organization and Mary responded to each question. Some of those questions and answers will be discussed in the presentation portion of the minutes.

The group then discussed the focus of Tehama Together. Chris said that because of the results of the assessment form Orle used, the group would be focusing more on the community garden. It was felt that this might get more people involved since the group agreed that most people do not want to be involved with the business end of an organization. Chris said there was a General Committee meeting scheduled for June 22, at her home and it will center on the planning for a community garden. Chris mentioned that Nan Renish was a big part of helping the Executive Committee focus on something that everyone would be able to participate in, as opposed to the inner workings of the group. She said she thought that the core group was great, but it was wonderful when someone new comes in and gives their input. She felt that new ideas and insights help move the group to another level.

The group then turned to a discussion about the 501 (c) (3) since Mary had experience in this area. Orle asked Mary if Pangea had had an attorney to help with the 501 (c) (3). Mary said yes for Pangea, but when she and her friend started Neighbors without Borders, they did it themselves. She said it only took about three months for the application to be approved for Neighbors without Borders, but the Pangea 501 (c) (3) took over a year because of 911. Colleen said she thought it might take longer for a 501 (c) (3) to be processed now because of the financial condition of the country.

Mary pointed out that as soon as a group files the application and the organization was approved, any donations collected, as far back as eighteen months, could be tax deductible. Mary said the group was either a non-profit or a business. It was not just a group, and she felt there were not many people giving just for a donation. Often times she felt they did not even want a tax write off. She said there was always the possibility of a person who would want to donate a large amount of money and in that case, a tax deduction would be beneficial.

Mary said the most difficult portion of the 501 (c) (3) for her was the mission statement. She said the mission statement for Pangea was just around two sentences. The advice of the attorney was to keep it short and simple and so they did. She said the mission statement was not a document the group was going to hand to someone. She went on to say there would always be access to the legal documents. Mary felt there should be a flyer or brochure that described all the projects and what the organization was all about. She said it was important not to restrict the organization because the group might want to go on to other projects that might not be described in the mission statement. The group agreed that it might be better to be very vague in the documents. Mary said the mission statement helped a group define who they were. She continued by saying the document was

just letting people know what the organization was doing, how it was going to proceed and where the actual funding was going to come from.

Colleen asked Mary if her bylaws were very specific or simple in nature. Mary said it was very simple. Orle asked Mary if she might be able to provide a copy of her bylaws for Tehama Together to use as a model. She said she would provide a copy to the group. Mary said she thought Lupe had said at one of the early meetings that she would bring in her copy of bylaws but the group said that Lupe had not been able to find a copy of her bylaws. Chris said it would be very helpful to find a model that was simple. Mary said that she and her friend just decided to get over their resistance and sat down one day and put together the bylaws. She said it was basically getting together the information for the mission statement and the bylaws. She said one afternoon the two of them sat at her computer, read the book and put together the information they needed to complete the forms. Mary said that when they were all through it seemed much simpler than they thought it would be. She said that she thought the group could get it accomplished on a Saturday. Chris said she thought the fewer people working on it the better and Mary agreed.

Mary said she felt the biggest thing was to identify the group as to what the group was, i.e., say Tehama Together was a community service group, it wanted to be educational and then the group could ask the question or what? She said those were the important questions to ask and answer.

Chris mentioned Ruth Deike's idea of identifying the needs of the community before one could complete the 501 (c) (3). Mary said the group would be identifying the needs of the community but she did not feel the group had to do it with the documents they were discussing. She said it seemed to her all the group would need to say was it would survey the needs of the community and

help where it could. She said that would cover a lot of projects but it would keep the group flexible for future endeavors. Mary said the group had already seen a turn around of people and it was good to be flexible. She said that right now the group was focusing on the community garden; in the future, the group might be focusing on helping with getting people out of foreclosures. Chris said that was true, she felt that the group was diverse and did not want to be pigeon holed into one thing.

Mary said she thought a legal committee and a committee to decide what the group was doing now, was what the group needed at this time. She said in time the group could put together a brochure to tell what the group was doing currently, what it hoped to do in the future and eventually what it felt the results might be. She said the plan was to define short, medium and long term goals and the time this takes would depend on the response the group receives.

Mary suggested the group get two or three people in a meeting and use the nonprofit manual to create the documents. Orle wondered if Mary would come to the June 17th executive meeting and bring a copy of her Neighbors without Borders documents for the group to discuss. Mary said she could come for an hour or so and would be glad to help get the group started. She said that when she sent in her documents for Neighbors without Borders they sent it back for a few corrections. She made the corrections and sent them back in. Mary said she thinks the group should be able to get half of it done at the next meeting. Colleen said that Chris and she had gone over word for word this very complicated set of bylaws that she downloaded off the Internet. Mary said that the Pangea document, which she felt was very important to get everything right, was very simple. She said the main thing was to come up with some by laws, which will show how the group intends to operate Tehama Together.

Orle asked Mary if Pangea was a member organization and Mary said no and neither was Neighbors without Borders. She said no one was paid and when the forms were filled out, zeros were put in the place where questions about employees appear. Mary assumed an attorney would look over the documents for the group. She said the important thing for the group was to agree to general definitions and she thought that the document should include education of all ages instead of concentrating on one age. It was agreed that Mary would come to the meeting on the 17th and the group gave Mary the directions to Business Connections.

Orle wondered if the group should check to see if Ruth Deike and Nan Renish would come to the meeting. The group agreed that they should focus on the words JUST DO IT. Colleen showed Mary a copy of one of the mission statements that the group had put together. Mary said she was good at editing and she went over the document. Mary wondered about the healthy food verbiage. She suggested the wording community projects instead of healthy food. She felt that was more vague and would lend itself to possible changes in the future. Mary continued going over the mission statement to see if she could get it down to a few sentences. The following was the result: TEHAMA TOGETHER PROVIDES AN ENVIRONMENT THAT SERVES THE NEEDS OF TEHAMA COUNTY THROUGH NETWORKING, EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY.

Mary said the group should distinguish between the legal form and the brochure. She thought the description should be very broad but maintain the integrity of the group. The group agreed that they wanted the document to be something that could and would stand up to changing thoughts and ideas as the group grew. Chris mentioned that the group had already changed as the core people step up to support and lead Tehama Together. Mary said that was because of the needs and the group was dealing with the needs of the people who support the group.

Orle asked about the Children's Park, which had been the original planned site for the community garden. Chris said that Kathy Moore had found out that a private party owned it rather than the City of Red Bluff. Chris said she would follow up on getting in touch with the owner as soon as a community garden committee was formed. There was some discussion about Kathy Moore's concern about spending a lot of money on a watering system and then having the property owners take back the land. Mary mentioned that any site the group chooses does not have to be a permanent spot for the garden. Mary described a watering system that was above ground that would be less expensive than an underground system.

Mary went on to say that she felt the 501 (c) (3) would serve the group for all its interests and should take care of what ever comes up. She suggested leaving the subject of the garden out of the 501 (c) (3). She felt the less definition in the document, the better off the group would be. She felt the description of *projects to help the community* leant itself to include things in the future.

Mary said that the group should ask the attorney about liability for the garden. Chris said that there had been some discussion about insurance and they knew that would have to be included in the budget.

Presentation:

World March for Peace and Non-Violence – Mary Shaver:

Earlier in the meeting Orle had asked Mary several questions about her group. Those comments will be included in this portion of the minutes.

Orle had asked Mary who owned the park where Pangea was located. Mary said that Pangea World Communities (which was a 501 (c) (3) owned the park. She said the park itself was not a 501 (c) (3). It was a separate entity from Pangea, which was the non-profit. Orle asked where the office was located and Mary suggested that all that information was on the website. The website is Red Bluff Park.org

Mary went on to explain that this park was just the North American part (USA). She said there were five major parks and they were within each region of the world. She said however, there were many more locally run parks around the world such as in Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

Orle asked Mary how the group ended up in Red Bluff and Mary explained that they there were many of the group that lived in the Bay area. They had decided when looking for a location they wanted to be about two hours from the bay area so they searched diligently but could not find anything that was in their price range. There were some friends in the Oroville area and even though it was so far away some of the group came up to look in this area. The realtor had suggested that they look in the Red Bluff area and when they saw the land, they felt it was perfect for what they had in mind. She said Lana Kitchel and the Coalition for Peace people were also inspirational in the group's choice to locate in Red Bluff.

Mary said she moved here because of the park and hopes to retire here. Orle wondered if the owner of the land had any qualms about selling to the group. Mary said no, they were very supportive in the sale.

Mary went on to describe the park. She said there were four and a half acres on which there will be buildings. These buildings will be used for study and reflection. Colleen asked if the group was going to rent out one of the buildings to the public for events.

Mary said that originally they had thought they would have it open to any public event but they have changed their emphasis to study of non-violence. Therefore, projects such as the community garden that was proposed by Tehama Together would not be appropriate for their setting. Mary said the park would be open to the public but would be more for meditation, studying non-violence in many forms and ceremonies. She said they will be having weekly study meetings but they were not quite ready for the public yet.

Chris wondered if they were planning to landscape the property in a garden like setting and Mary said it would depend on what their finances could afford. Orle wondered how they funded their organization and Mary said through donations.

Mary handed out some information on the World March for Peace and Non-Violence that will begin October 2, 2009 and end January 2, 2010. The March will begin in New Zealand and conclude in the Andes Mountains. It will cover six continents and ninety countries and the exciting part for Red Bluff is that some of the group will be coming here to spend a day at the Pangea Park. Mary said there was still much to be announced because they were still in the organizational stages. She said there would be eighty people doing the whole tour, however, there could be more as the event gets closer. Mary said there will be a variety of modes of transportation used on the tour including, flying, boats, bikes and walking. Mary said it had not been decided yet how many of the group will come to Red Bluff. She said that some would go to Berkeley, some to San Rafael, and some to LA. Colleen mentioned that since the center here in Red bluff was the only one in the Americas it would seem that more of the group would like to experience it. Mary said that could be the case. The group let Mary know that they were looking forward to more information on the March when she had some to share. Mary gave the group some

forms to fill out if they wished. She said this would give them access to more information and help indorse the March.

The next general meeting will be held at Chris Pritchard's home at 13245 Hwy 99, Red Bluff, CA 96080 - June 22, 2009 at 1 PM - Her phone number is 530-529-6514.

The next executive meeting will be held at Business Connections on June 17, 2009 at 1 PM.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Happy Birthday to Orle on June 19, 2009

Written by: Colleen Sheehan

Action Items:

Elder Service Council Meeting	Orle Jackson
Community Action Agency Mtg.	Orle Jackson
Field to Fork	unassigned
Facility Exploration	Lupe Green, Chris Pritchard
Time line/Summer Meeting Times	Executive Committee
Copy of documents for Mtg.	Mary Shaver

