

South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18 at 6 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Annex, Nursery, Freeland

AGENDA

1. Present: Council members Edward, Andréa, Prescott, Fred and Angie; members Michael Seraphinoff, Tom Grant, J.C. May and Kirstin Clauson
2. Approved minutes of December 21 meeting
3. Announcements
 - a. Seed Swaps: **February 4, Sunday** at Bayview Hall, 1 to 5 p.m. **February 17, Saturday**, 2 to 4 p.m. at Coupeville Library. Tilth will have a presence at both, with fliers and handouts.
 - b. Newsletter deadline February 9. Topic suggestions: Schedule vendor meeting, Community garden signup deadline, membership renewal plan and form update, classes and displays, new council members, vendor meeting notice maybe
 - c. Film night in February will be *Plane Truths*, by Mark and Melissa
4. Finance Report –
 - a. Review of Finance report by Edward: There is \$6,250 in the general checking. There is in savings \$4,000 from Albert's fund for "aesthetics" i.e. land improvements. We also have a \$14,462 sustainability fund for emergencies, to keep Tilth viable, money, but that is money that shouldn't be used for daily uses.
 - b. Status of fundraising letter: donors response: \$3,550 deposited to date, mostly to general fund, but \$600 dedicated to intern and \$110 dedicated to land payment. There is also a \$1,000 additional in donations toward the intern.
5. Internship – Prescott
 - a. We had three new candidates, but one found a job, one didn't respond for interview, but J.C., Ida and Prescott interviewed one candidate, Drew Pfeiffer. They felt positive toward him, but they felt that they would like to have more choices.
 - b. After discussion we decided on a new posting to new sources for advertising the intern position.
 - c. Andrea, partly in response to Michael's email to the council prior to the meeting, raised the concern that our fundraising hasn't been adequate to hire the intern. We now have \$1,600 dedicated to the funding for a \$7,500 planned position. Edward also raised concerns about Tilth not having the funding for this, and he pointed out that we have been running an increasing deficit for several years now. In the further discussion Andréa suggested that we wait and find out what we will receive from the Tulalip Grant, the garden club grant, and other sources before making any further hiring plans. Angie favors that we revise our plan to be more like last year's Tilth intern arrangement, with a shorter season, and possibly a work trade for housing. Michael also expressed interest in exploring this option. Prescott will consult with Good Cheer director Carol Squire and School Farm leader Cary Peterson about their fundraising success and report back to the council before reposting the position
 - d. It was pointed out that we have arranged to be fiscal sponsor of at least one School Farm intern. We don't need to pay our own money for this. We do need to pay for our own intern.
6. Nominating Committee report – Michael and Andréa announced Kirstin's recruitment to be "liaison" or market committee council member, if approved at the annual meeting by membership. We are interested at this time in having Prescott continue to be president for the coming year, while having council members each take a month to chair meetings and take on other duties monthly.
7. Market Committee report: Judy couldn't make it to the council meeting, but Kirstin announced her interest in serving on the council for farmers' market planning, and also suggested that she will attend the WSFMA workshop in February or March in Renton. Two other members could also attend this workshop because we are a member of the WSFMA. Judy will present a final report on last year's market activity at the annual meeting. The Market Survey, on line, created by Janet and Paula, has been approved by the market committee and will be sent on to members of the council by email next. It is close to being released. There will be a \$35 cost if we have more than 100 people surveyed.

9. Education Committee report: Angie reported that she recently organized an education committee meeting. That meeting began planning classes for the coming year, a process involving recruitment of teachers. She also is organizing a display at Sound Waters, Saturday Feb. 3 at South Whidbey High School, with a cost of \$25 for us as a nonprofit. The seed swap will mainly be promoted, but as a project of Tilth, it mostly will need another year's planning. Angie will reserve space for our educational display at the Whidbey Gardening Workshop on March 3 in Oak Harbor. Kirstin may staff the booth, we'll review this in February.
10. Membership, Community Relations and Development Committee report: Andréa is organizing a change in how we collect membership fees, and create a membership drive around Summer Solstice time. She will talk about this proposal at the annual meeting. This will require some new forms for membership sign up.
11. Land Stewardship committee. Ida has let us know she will not make the meeting, but Pete gave a review of a list of materials needed for the tool shed, kiosk and garden meters. We will have two garden sheds as a result of this work. Pete would like to find a metal cabinet, a lock and latch for the new shed to house the flammable fuel. We received a load of donated shingles for the shed. Michael thinks that he has a window to donate for the shed. The council approved the expenses for this, some from the Albert fund and some from the irrigation fund. Pete wants some help determining where to put the kiosk, rearrange the entrance sign, and so we will arrange a meeting. It was agreed by the council that Pete and Moki won't pay their agreed \$100, because Tilth members who come to work parties receive so much food prepared by them. This will be compensation for their contribution to workers on the land.
12. **Annual meeting planning:** Saturday, January 20 at Trinity Lutheran Grigware Hall. Prescott called for help on the Friday prior to the annual meeting. There are a number of things that need preparation. She also asked for some volunteers to come before the annual meeting around 2:45 pm to prepare the room. Ed will come early to help. Andréa and Vivian will help with membership and raffle ticket sales, and Angie will help with the raffle.
 - 3:00 p.m. (or sooner) set up chairs & tables, set up projector, hang displays, set up refreshments and raffle items
 - 3:30 people arrive, check membership and sell raffle tickets
 - 4:00 Speaker Bri Ewing
 - 4:45 Elections and committee reports (3 minute each)
 - 5:30 Potluck and raffle drawing
 - 6:30 clean up

Call to Adjourn— next meeting in February. The date and time will be determined by the new council

Minutes by Michael Seraphinoff