

## Minutes of Tilth Council Meeting 3/21/19

The meeting was called to order by Leah Claire. Present at the meeting were Lynae Slindon, FRed Rouge, Kirstin Clauson, J.C. May, David Prisbrey, Anza Muenchow, Ida Gianopulos, Prescott, and Edward Huenke.

The minutes from the 2/21 meeting were approved with no objections.

### Announcements

South Whidbey Tilth will be attending the Island County Employee's Local Food Fair on April 11; clarification on the gift certificates raffled off by the County to their employees is still needed, e.g.; how many, in what domination, does Tilth need to provide them, etc. Kirstin is going to sign Tilth up for the Food Fair (deadline is April 5).

### Upcoming Grants

The annual Goosefoot grant that we applied for last year for the farm stand project (we asked for \$14,000+ & received \$2,500) is accepting Letters of Inquiry until April 8. An update on the grant received last year is due June 1. A lot of our potential development projects could be framed as "economic development, building community or combatting community deterioration, addressing basic needs of people, environmental or historic preservation," the stated priorities for the grant. Ida pointed out we should aim a grant application towards the higher end of the limit (\$15,000). Since Goosefoot contributed towards the farm stand before there was a detailed proposal, giving some examples of how the project has moved forward in the meantime is necessary. Anza suggested if we had a the farm stand staffed one day a week so people could use food stamps, perhaps that type of programming could be incorporated into the application. Leah brought up the changes to the project outline she'd like to see; rather than a goal of putting up a farmstand, a multipart project of community outreach, campus rejuvenation and an ecologically-friendly multi-use building. Leah will draft a Letter of Inquiry and send it out to everybody after looking at what was submitted last year. There will be coordination via email to get the letter done before April 8th and then going forward meetings in person to discuss the farm stand and entrance project.

Lynae, asked about the Port grants, said they've already been done for the year; something to keep in mind for next year.

Prescott asked if anyone is interested in joining her and Andréa on the fundraising committee. Lynae & Leah asked to be involved.

Whidbey Island Garden Tour Grant: Ida is going to be updating and resubmitting her grant proposal from last year.

#### Finance Report:

Nursery license has been renewed. The annual budget was adjusted at the last meeting. [NB I was unable to follow all the accounting changes, Edward goes over them at around the 40m mark on the recording, which is available...] "We start off -\$1,129.38 [in the general fund column], when you add the money from the sustainability fund that is incorrectly there, you get to -\$836.32 [...] and then, it's going to be plus \$418 from the savings account [...] that would take it down to -\$418.38 and then we're taking the \$161.37 that Cary paid, and that would reduce it then to -\$257, so we're only \$257 from being square with the dedicated funds." He proposed that we redesignate \$129 of dedicated funds into the general funds category, so that we don't have to move it out of the bank account that it's in and so that it will stop confusing the bookkeeper. The motion was passed with no objections.

Ida asked for clarification on how much is available in the Albert Foster Fund, as the Balance Sheet Comparison has two different amounts. Edward said he'd ask about the discrepancy, but said the top number (which is the larger number) is probably right.

Market and general budget questions, such as discretionary (under \$100) spending, were discussed. The example that came up was market tokens, and Prescott was going to send Kirstin the link to the tokens Lazarus found last year. The larger question of the paid market manager position being budgeted into the market budget, or not (Edward said that as of now, there is an intern in the budget, not a market manager, but we can add that), and whether the market manager is accepting the wages, is unresolved. Any purchases, though, should not come out of the market manager funds but out of general funds through board approval (for purchases over \$100).

Edward asked about the land payments for the incubator farm plots. Lesedi's land payment is due this month, the Prsbrey lease is due in May. Ida will follow up on the Lesedi lease.

#### Calendar Review

March 28 Vendor meeting

April 14, film night, potluck at 6 / film at 7

(Regarding Film Night, Lynae brought up that an attendee asked if there were a more accessible location available for film nights, as some have difficulty driving at night, particularly in winter.)

April 14 is also the Tilth Market Cleanup

May 5 Market - Maypole

June 1 the progress report for the Goosefoot grant is due

August 15 was set for the Sustainability Potluck [NB I'm not actually certain that's what the potluck is called] (there was some talk of checking to see if there were other community events scheduled for that date)

Mowing: Ida will contact Tom Grant about mowing

April is Earth and Ocean Month.

Tilth will have a table at the kickoff on April 2 at the high school cafeteria and will be helping with the Earth and Ocean Month curriculum for the 5th & 6th graders at the elementary school gardens on April 22 and 25. Tom Vincent will offer something on composting; a meeting to brainstorm/discuss/plan this content, which will cover up to 45 minutes and be repeated up to 8x, is TBD. The Earth and Ocean Month kickoff is a two hour event at the high school cafeteria where participating groups will try to inspire people to take action today to reduce their carbon footprint. Peter Norton, a Langley city councilperson, is doing the keynote call-to-action speech. Tilth will have a table about addressing climate change. Someone will have to make a 90 second statement. Setup is 5 - 5:30 and the event ends at 7:30. Edward volunteered to attend and be involved. Tom will be asked if he will do the 90 second speech.

The next planning meeting for the Earth and Ocean Month agenda is March 29, 9am at the Bayview classroom.

Prescott suggested planning an Earth and Ocean Month activity at Tilth surrounding the Garry Oak trees.

Land Stewardship

The Community Garden 2019 agreement has been approved.

Ida is going to form a community garden committee to facilitate spending the Albert Foster fund on improving the community garden.

Prescott mentioned that a member asked about borrowing a backpack sprayer for fruit trees. Since Tilth doesn't have one and the price is under \$100, the council agreed that Prescott should buy one for Tilth's use, and that the issue of whether it could be lent out can be pursued at a later date. (Ida expressed concern at the idea of lending out a delicate piece of equipment which would require stringent cleaning routines.)

Leah brought up that a member had been talking about wanting to help get unsightly and dangerous areas cleaned up, and that hopefully the community garden committee would help more members feel they have agency to move projects along. As one of the things the member had brought up was the condition of the scarecrow, Leah asked if it could be replaced. The council has an attachment to the historical scarecrow, so it will be madeover by those who feel sentimentally attached. Leah's going to add a small scarecrow so it has a friend.

Leah asked if there is any objection to Calyx School being approached about having some presence at Tilth again. There was no objection and several people expressed enthusiasm.

#### Market

The minutes show that the market policy, rules and agreement were reviewed and approved via email vote. Kirstin will send a copy to Prescott to put on the website.

The market manager / assistant market manager positions were discussed. The assistant manager's contact info has been included in the newsletter and the vendor agreement, it is a volunteer backup position. .

Leah said she's trying to organize weekly market events (kids activity at 1pm and Tilth Talk at noon) in order to create effective advertising around them. She asked for any input on the market programs and passed around a brief summary, asking anyone with ideas or contributions for the educational programming to get in touch.

#### Newsletter update

Prescott said they were starting to lay out, and that she was going to contribute a notification on the transition of the caretakers, Pete and Moki, off the property. Anza, Prescott were going to communicate.

Education: Update on "Taming Bigfoot" carbon footprint challenge as part of Earth and Ocean Month.

Prescott says Tilth should consider forming a team to participate in this challenge, 5 or 6 people to measure their carbon use over two months and try to reduce it. Kickoff is April 22. Prescott is helping the Taming Bigfoot project with their brochure.

#### Apprentice update

No action as of yet, since interviewing an applicant who took a different position. Edward asked if we were sponsoring an intern for any other organizations this year; only a Tilth intern this year. Prescott went through a partial list of the many places the internship is listed. Lynae asked if the FFA or 4H, graduating high school kids would be an option, but Ida and Prescott thought not. David offered to contact his former agriculture teachers at Edmonds in case she has any leads. Prescott says we should advertise earlier if we want more applicants. Ida said she'd email Judy about any leads.

Leah expressed some reservations about the marketing group Whidbey Island Grown and the lack of information on their website about their ethical standards, plus their aptitude and ethics in social media promotion for their members.

Ida will facilitate the next meeting.