

South Whidbey Tilt Business Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church Annex, Nursery

The meeting was called to order by volunteer facilitator Edward Hueneke at 6:25 p.m. Present were trustees Andréa Linton, Prescott, Anza Muenchow, Leah Claire, Ida Gianopulos and Kirstin Clauson. Other members present were David Prisbrey, J.C. May and FRed Rouge. Trustee Lynae Slinden was unable to attend.

Minutes: Approval of the April 18 meeting minutes was postponed until the June meeting.

Finance report:

Edward checking account cash on hand as of May 15 is \$11,121.83. Savings has \$547.15. Dedicated fund from Garden Tour grant of \$294.03 is for compost brochure.

The entrance redesign and landscaping grant from Whidbey Island Garden Tour has been awarded at \$4,000. Each beneficiary is being asked to provide four to six volunteers to serve during the June 15 dinner for volunteers. Edward and Judy may do so. Prescott and Anza is already volunteers during the tour and pretour.

Land Stewardship: Ida intends to schedule a community garden work party to install rabbit fencing around the gardens for Saturday, June 8. She's pricing fencing at Hanson's and HomeDepot and expect to spend \$800.

Prescott presented an offer for a warranty on the General Electric propane cook stove purchased over a year ago. All agreed it was not necessary.

Ida has been contacted about using the campus for a wedding. It was decided that liability for such an event is costly, but we will continue to make our parking available to others in the neighborhood for wedding guests.

Camping proposal: Michael was unable to attend the meeting but sent the council members information to earn some income offering camping through Hipcamp which "partners with property owners to create new places for people to get outside—whether that's pitching a tent on land, or staying in an existing structure like a small cabin.

Hosts sign up with Hipcamp and create a listing that shows the area(s) available to Hipcampers.

Hipcampers book and pay for their stay directly through Hipcamp, and hosts keep 90% of the payment. Hosts set their own prices and are covered by [Hipcamp's \\$1 million liability insurance.](#)"

He talked to Glendale Shepherd owner: She "told me that she had to create a set of rules - no feeding sheep, etc. but by restricting our camping to cyclists and maybe advertising only Saturday night, we could limit a lot of behaviors and a number of us are always there on Saturday afternoon, getting ready for the market reported that we run a deficit every year, maybe a couple thousand dollars. If we had four campers on \$25 a site, we might come closer to overcoming that deficit. Grants and other fund raising over the years has never succeeded in overcoming the deficit spending. Potential campers contact Hip Camp. They collect the money and wire it to our bank account. Our land, gardens, market etc. could be educational for these campers and they may buy food and even help set up on Sunday morning. Liability from healthy cyclists would seem minimal. Of course, any visitor any day could sue us for injuries incurred at a market, walking a dog etc. I can't see how four or five more people on a weekend amount to much more risk. No vehicles, no kids or dogs involved. We could cancel the project any time. I like that so many of you have expressed concerns. It seems like a productive discussion prior to the next council meeting."

Discussion: Michael will be asked assure that the camp sites are cleaned and clearly delineated.

Education committee report:

Ideas for the educational exhibit at the Whidbey Island Fair were explored. Leah suggested regenerative agriculture lessons. Perhaps something about pollinators would be good since we started the year with a program by Eric Lee-Mäder of the Xerces Society, the Garden Tour money includes pollinator plants and Prescott talked to fifth and sixth graders about pollinators during Earth Day week.

Membership report: Andréa reported that the renewal letters have been prepared and mailed.

Calendar review:

Water: Earlier in the year the well pump stopped working. Ida agreed to have it inspected by B&W Pumps. No problems have occurred since. Prescott will contact our water inspector as to when she intends to do this year's test.

A celebration of Tilth's 37th anniversary will be June 19 with an outdoor picnic. Also a potluck party will be planned to welcome our apprentice. Andréa volunteered to write something for both events to be sent around as an email to members.

Farmers' Market report: Prescott noted that gross sales for the first three markets is about \$200 lower than last year at this time.

Kirstin is working on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) tokens to replace the rough ones currently in use. \$70 worth are currently accounted for and will not be enough. Lynae has been oriented by Prescott to handle SNAP customers who also get double value thanks to a grant from the Goose Community Grocer via Goosefoot. She can get 100 tokens of varying value for about \$85.

Intern update: Ben Elfland has agreed to be our apprentice. His graduation is May 17 and he will let us know of his travel schedule, which is likely to be early June. Ida offered to train him on volunteer recruitment tactics. Prescott will draw up a schedule of work and training to meet the needs of each council member. He will work most closely with Kirstin, Ida and Anza. Prescott is the lead coordinator.

Next Meeting: Anza agreed to facilitate the June 20 business meeting. It will be on the Tilth campus.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned after 8:30 p.m.

Prepared by Prescott, mostly by notes and memory as the recording failed after 9 minutes.