

Community Center Meeting June 17, 2013

Members in attendance: Norma, Steve, Thom, Hilary, Charlie, Jon, Anna, Andy

Meeting Begin Time: 6:19

Thom: Calls to see if anyone has showed up to make comments, people who are not on the committee. No one is here so we don't need to take comments. The next thing on the agenda is development and initiation of a fundraising strategy. We got an email from DeeDee that listed some info in it, and Jon you too, I think it was suggested to form a sub committee for that.

Anna: I move that we do create a subcommittee for fundraising.

Andy: Who would be on this?

Charlie: I make a second with a friendly amendment that the (sub)committee be not more than 4 people.

Hilary: My impression from the board motion was that there was more of an expectation of how we move into a fundraising phase, not necessarily for this project, but capacity building. I would really like to be on the subcommittee, one thing I think is helpful is to come up with an initial draft of things and procedures before they start reviewing.

Jon: Fundraising feasibility plan is what the motion says and that is what I have an issue with, I think this is the phase that we are at, if that is what the committee is doing then I would have supported the motion, but I think it is premature to do a fundraising feasibility plan for a specific site plan.

Charlie: For me this is not about a specific site plan, I think we are where you are saying we are at, I don't think the point is to come back with a feasibility study, but ask the questions and answer what we can answer, and maybe come back with a rough order or estimate, to see what we can come up with and learn about fundraising by September, who we might partner with and what it might cost it depends on what answers we find, I think we are learning about fundraising knowing there is a plan out there, even if its not the pivot plan.

Thom: Yean, I kind of agree with that, I see what you are saying and I think we can use the information we gain to relook at the Pivot plan to see if it is even feasible, I don't think we have to tie it to this specific proposal.

Anna: Really, the in game is about putting some financing together for a community center without necessarily acknowledging that we have done some work within this committee, they need to have an in point, I am not in front of a board now, we should aim for upland kitchen and facility that is explained in the work we did with pivot, to disassociate all of that will be hard for us to get to our end point, we need talk about the funding of a community center.

Hilary: To me, the Fair has a long ways to go to figure out how to do fundraising. It is almost as if we are reading consumer reports to figure out how we go out and find something that fits with us, this is capacity building, and I think this is what we communicated to the board. I think we are leading up to a community center, but I am all for small, achievable steps, then it could be a giant leap if we go out and say we are making steps towards this project, I think this is a step forward.

Andy: I don't think we are forming a subcommittee to start raising the funds to start building the building, we have to do research, and we need to figure out how we are going to fund it. We are laying the ground work, we could be a little more specific I think in forming the committee, I think four is a good number, we might want to reach out to outer people like Dee Dee, we need to figure out the feasibility of doing the feasibility, collecting facts, and knowledge. I see no harm in this subcommittee, we don't need to agonize over it, we have to do this, we could refine the motion to see who we really want to have on this subcommittee, I am asking, can the motion be refined in that regard?

Anna: I could!

Charlie: We are the Community Center Committee, and our motion was to look at fundraising education, and get educated on this topic, and then present back to the committee, and then back to the board in September. This way we can refine our ideas and plan and figure out which option for fundraising feasibility is worth spending and raising money for, there is a natural evolution, we don't need to overthink it.

Anna: So, the subcommittee motion should be more along the lines of exploring financial possibilities up until September, I am going to say I was thinking that four, but maybe five I am seeing yourself, Hilary and Jon and then two people at large who have backgrounds in fundraising and finance, hopefully that is flexible for everyone. And we could move on.

Chewy: This motion is an internal committee motion? (Yes) Ok thank you.

Jon: Basically as I hear it now explore what is involved in a capital campaign without attaching it to any price tag or site plan, it could be that site plan it could be something else that gets developed. I am not sure what I think about other people being appointed

to the committee, the subcommittee could maybe have a sub- committee who have the expertise, but I don't know if we need to limit it to two people.

Thom: I agree with that

Charlie: Unless there is someone else on top of the three, then we could invite who we want, but it is harder to schedule with more people.

Anna: Subcommittee motion does need to be internal so can we go ahead and vote on this.

The Motion: Create a subcommittee to explore financing for capital campaigns, which will consist of Charlie Ruff, Hilary Anthony, and Jon Silvermoon and can be advised by whoever they want (externally). They will report back to the full committee before reporting to the board in September.

Hilary: That may be ambitious but that is okay.

Anna: Yes, we can do it

Thom: Everyone in favor

Vote: Unanimous-Yes

Thom: Presentation of the project at the Fair and how we will get feedback, so I had a phone conversation with Cynthia Wooten, and she offered someone's services to us, some kind of intern, who could gather info on a laptop at the fair, but that was a month ago and I have not heard back from her. I am sure we could get presentation size boards on any of these pages, if we wanted to display any of this.

Anna: I read Kirks email about posting things up, I would like to volunteer to take materials and go forward and make things to post up, I can make materials, or at least take them to Kinko's or work with Pivot, I can do that part.

Andy: We can repurpose the Law Reform kiosk.

Norma: I am happy to help create any forms or printed material

Charlie: As far as kiosk goes there is kind of a Path planning project going, whatever we do ought to be there, there is the pre-fair and during fair deployment, is it the Law Reform Kiosk or something else, I see almost a small subcommittee with short marching orders. What is the story you are going to tell and what are you using to tell that story? And most importantly how are you going to capture the feedback? The information out works well, but gathering the feedback back is harder. Partially cause we don't get much

and also because it is hard to decipher right in the middle of Fair time activities, if we can find a good way to get that data that would be great.

Anna: I have experience with on the ground data collection, and what has been successful in the past with far side was to put up a map and have people write on it. I know that might not be high-level data but it is a good starting point, that's the idea I have.

Charlie: The other key piece is asking clearly for what feedback we want, just on the Pivot plan? It's not a wish list. What are the questions we are asking...

Jon: Yes, this is why it is hard for me to see what we can do at the Fair, we still have feedback that we have not discussed yet, the idea food booths could open early during peak time to help the staff kitchen and partially feed staff. How do we take the ideas that have been given to us? All we have to ask for feedback on is the Pivot report and I think that it would be a mistake because that would seem like what we are proposing, which is not necessarily the case. My problem is what can we meaningfully ask since I don't think we know where we are at as of now.

Chewy: I hear what you are saying Jon, but I think the questions we might ask for feedback on are: What do people think about the upland kitchen, the meeting space, both? Just real simple, don't complicate it, and it doesn't matter then if it's the Pivot plan or not. We could use the pictures perhaps, to say here is an idea, and that might be fundamentally simple, instead of getting really intimate and deep. I am just trying to think of the questions we ask and keeping them simple is the best thing, not using the Pivot plan as the Pivot plan, but as a model.

Steve: Just a thought about who we want to reach, and I don't think it is the public. So setting it up Main camp during pre-fair, and leave it there during Hospitality, for people to submit feedback during Hospitality then that is the group we want to reach.

Andy: This is a two way street, putting info out and getting info back, I picture the kiosk with the three sides with all the information, because there are still many people who don't know what we are doing here. I see it kind of in Spoken Word during Fair, we could have people like Kate Newhall get out the vote style, ten or so questions that we come up with, do you want to have a community center? Hang around the information center, and approach people who look interested with a survey to gather information. This way we don't have to wait for people to write what they think. I think the public is just as important, because we will be reaching out to the public, they are in a way Fair family, they love the Fair just as much as anyone else and will use the center. I'd be willing to pull a shift around that kiosk if we can get it together.

Thom: I like the idea of keeping it simple on feedback end of things. I don't know what the consensus is on how big the meeting space should be. We know we want to have a

kitchen but the disagreement is how big is the indoor space, or if we even need one, I think we need feedback on that and just a couple other questions. We have not discussed the feedback because we are not done getting feedback, we have only heard from a certain segment of the Fair family, I want more feedback before we get into a discussion, we need to hear from the family during the Fair, and I don't know about the public, because it is still sensitive. I would prefer to keep it in house as a family discussion. And the pivot report is something we have, and I think it answers question and is helpful for people to see. As long as we clearly identify that this is a preliminary report then lets hear it and get feedback on that report.

Hilary: Two big questions we face with reacting to the Pivot report is what is the right size and what is the right cost. So, focusing on size as far as feedback goes I think is good. A three sided kiosk could be one side: here is the vision, educating people here is what we are thinking of doing, one side devoted to Pivot real specific, and a third side about making a decision, asking the questions. We are at decision points, we have gathered information and this is a way to inform people and get others involved to both give and receive feedback. Focusing the feedback on the size issue captures a critical piece of our project.

Charlie: I am going back to the idea that yes, we are calling out for feedback on some level, but we are also broadcasting information. What Hilary just laid out does make great sense, those three sides are perfect, and on the third having a few really specific questions is the way to go. The primary mechanism for feedback will be our email, and then whoever can devote time to being there at the kiosk will be helpful, we also don't have a lot of time, so if we can keep it simple and have clear messages, and attach images, while phrasing the big decision points, cost, size, etc. then that is the best way to go.

Chewy: Just an offer, the camping crew is going to be out in the woods talking to a lot of people, if you guys come up with a few questions, maybe four, I like the number four, and those are related to how big? How much? If we need it? Asking people what they think. I am willing to do it and there are people on my crew who will be doing a lot of on the ground talking to people in the woods, and we can put up the questions throughout the camps and put up the email. Putting up the questions in camps and far side we can reach a lot of people.

Jon: I think in addition to the issue of size, just as important is what is the mix, indoors vs. outdoors, I think it would be good to ask people the kind of question, what would you support, would you support with volunteer labor or monetary donation, that may be a good question to ask, but when we talk about meeting space and having meetings out here, how many people are going to actually come out here in January for a meeting even if we have a meeting space? I hear some things that say this will provide a meeting space for the fair, but are people actually going to come out here to use the space as such?

Hilary: We have to ask this at the board meetings and committee meetings too.

Jon: The mix of indoor/outdoor space, is key then, we think about this space too for people who want to do weddings and other kinds of things, I don't know how we can ask something that can then encompass all of this.

Anna: Simple Questions: How big should the indoor space be? Do we need an indoor space? Would you support building this structure, how? What is the right cost? These have come up the most. Then for the kiosk we have one side with the why's and how we have gotten here, then reports and background info, and then making a decision with a big question mark. We are not at a decision point but are trying to inform a decision.

Hilary: Most of us here know this, but so far low level meals are around 300, we are feeding a lot of people. And I think the issue of what we do year round is interesting, also considering our carbon footprint, so there is something about being local that changes how you relate to a place.

Jon: I would rather be sent an email that I can then send onto my crew, I think that is a good way to get responses.

Anna: It was not meant that everyone would get a handout; just people going around with clipboards could help with the eye-to-eye discussions.

Charlie: So, it seems to me that whatever simple three page presentation can translate to an email for coordinators and can go to the website to be accessed there is the best way to go. I think honing the message and getting it out just in main camp by Fair time is successful. One of the questions is do we need an indoor meeting space, and I don't know if that is a good question as of now, more of what is the size of that meeting space. We don't have a space for more than 50 people and we don't have anything for other use outside of the Fair, the concept we are talking about is, an upland kitchen and meeting space year round.

Anna: The how big should the indoor space is a good place for the committee to go but on the ground that is hard to explain to people.

Hilary: But that is where diagrams help.

Thom: I think it is about numbers, how many people can fit in a room together.

There were 100 people at the last coordinator meeting here.

Hilary: So asking 100, 300, 500 people...

Charlie: so 150 seems like a sweet spot, but going forward, leaving a little vision for the future, but it seems to me is that 150 is a good size.

Norma: we can collect email addresses of people who are interested in getting a survey.

Chewy: We could collect that at the kiosk.

Thom: So, Anna is willing to take the lead on this at this point.

Anna: I can work on these and edit through them and send them back out.

Thom: Moving on, committee membership, we have gotten three letters of people who want to be on the committee, two were forwarded by Kirk, Matt McCuin was one, Tom Brant, and Charlie Thompson.

Thom: Charlie Thompson from green building analyst.

Chewy: I know Charlie Thompson very well, he went through the green sustainability training.

Thom: Real estate appraiser for 20 years...

Andy: Sounds like an expert

Hilary: What if you call him up and tell him how our meeting schedule works; do you know the meeting schedule?

Chewy: Yes, third Mondays, I will see him tomorrow and I can talk to him.

Thom: Matthew McCuin, he is based in Portland, worked with the construction crew, potentially helpful in helping with design build rockiness, but he is in Portland. Tomas, on recycling for a long time, involved with low cost technology, the county actually had an appropriate tech. project that he was a part of, long time Fair family guy.

Hilary: Seems like good skill sets that they are bringing.

Jon: The only skill set I don't see is the fundraising feasibility thing, and we should check their availability, and only maybe leaving one space with that skill set.

Thom: Well I think now we are gathering stuff and maybe through the Fair other people may be interested, and I don't think we need to bring anyone to the board yet, but just see how available these people are, we can wait until the August meeting to review what comes in and make a recommendation to the board.

Anna: I agree on reaching out to others with wider skill sets, and maybe other stake holders in the Fair, people with experience being a coordinator on a large crew people who understand the capacity. Finances and communications are crucial now, not so much building is important and really helpful now.

Thom: So, we can leave this out there and see what we get and bring it back in August, no meeting in July are we?

Charlie: No what we have is substantial until August

Anna: Maybe twice in August as a possibility...

Meeting adjourned 7:17