



GROW!
P.O. Box 1433
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Grow Meeting -- Feb 16th, 2010

In Attendance: Rona Hall, Fred Hendrickson, Dan Studer, Jerry Pavia, Elsie Hollenbeck, Jason Thomas, Keith Snider, Janet Sapp, Colet Allen, Beverly Campbell, Lee Thomas and Mike Lucas

2/16/2010 -- 5:36pm meeting comes to order

President Jason Thomas prefaced the meeting to remind everyone to bring people to the membership meeting taking place on the 4th Tuesday of this and every following month, the 23rd of February. It will be a chance for people to casually exchange ideas, get to know one another, and build excitement for the Grow! movement.

Secretary's Report -- Minutes to the 9th of Feb. stood except for the correction to a previous correction, Janet Sapp *was* at the meeting 2 meetings ago, the 2nd of February, 2010.

Treasurer's report -- provided by President Jason Thomas in lieu of an active Treasurer:

Balance as of 2/2/2010 = 2057.96, modified by 1 membership (+\$15), and by expenses of application renewal toward the 5013c certification (-\$30).

Finding an official treasurer was of interest -- Rona may be interested. It was clarified that the treasurer deals with money, but there is another person who is in charge of memberships and another who is in charge of plots. The treasurer doesn't accept any money without paperwork.

Forms are to be filled out for membership to catch up with payments -- this includes renewals. Several forms were handed out and filled in.

Design committee report, Elsie Hollenbeck -- looked at each garden, observations were as follows:

The garden on Buchanan street /aka TLC /aka the Church garden -- needs a drip system along fence which requires 200 feet total. Colet has some drip hose. Also, Design would like a refrigerator to keep produce fresh. Further ideas included moving compost to free up bed to southeast corner by the green gate, a work table & sink, for the fruit trees to be pruned, the shed enclosed for next winter and a

trellis at front gate. Also to be attended to was tilling for the double plots, to acquire a cart w/ open end, and to acquire a back gate sign -- pending discussion w/ church. It came up that a cleaning rack for veggies would be useful. The ideas for which kinds of plants would be grown in demo plots; sage mint, oregano, basil, cilantro, tyme, rosemary, tarragon, and flowers. There was a question as to what could be done about the water pressure deficiency.

At the northside garden: on removal of the trees -- Diane suggested a raffle or give them away, as it will be an expense to take them out. The following to-do list was stated concerning the rest of the area: Thin the raspberries and extend the row; build compost on side back of shed; install a trellis on front entry; move fence to shed area; a sink; and a water system. The last had the following concerns: bring water by house, drips down the rows, and water to the sink. Greenhouses were mentioned. Also, tilling needs to be done, lots of morning glory should be raked up first.

On the starting of plants -- Debbie Jordan @ riverside high school, Lee Thomas w/ daughter, and Jason Thomas will all start plants. Colet and Jennifer Jensen would make list of seeds we want, and we would ask for donations.

At the Mission -- Someone should check on water supply; junk removed; take out metal to Colet's house; talk to tribe about distribution of produce and cut flowers grown at that site. Further, it would be needed to add some fabric between the gardens and raised beds, as well as woodchips.

The raspberries were not of interest to owner, they are red raspberries, and it was desired to transplant. It was remarked that the soil needs manure, fertilization, at northside garden.

Concerning the junk that needs to be moved, why not now? Dan Studer brought up that the weeds are not dead and will spring anew so waiting advantedgeous. Elsie mentioned that trimming the trees would be a benefit at that site, as well.

Topic turned to Spring Schedule:

The water pressue issue at the Buchanan street garden was redressed: Fred stated that the solution was to install a 1 1/4" water meter at the church over the current 5/8" meter, and put in the necessary pipe modifications. It was proposed to have a water reservoir above the sink to wash vegetables. Fred answered that the ultimate solution lies in a bigger meter, pipe modifications, an expense -- but that is the answer. It was brought up that the drip system for the Grow! plots would decrease demand, perhaps sufficiently. It was decided that until cost is known conversation is mute. It was mentioned that Grow! is centered around not requiring cash to make work, so it would be best to find a solution without cash investment. Keith Snider & Fred Hendrickson will follow up on the meter swap cost, and report at the March 2nd meeting.

Reminder: Sims will be here to talk about grains to the valley on March 2nd, as well.

Beverly has a refridgerator and a dolly, but it needs some adjustment.

Other needs were mentioned as possible and gladly accepted donations -- a big milkhouse style sink.

Construction report: Keith Snider -- not much to report yet. Covers were inquired about; 5 or 6 feet wide are available as walkable with plastic loops, using standard 10' pipe pieces the group could make 4' high with liftable sections to work on the garden itself. Elsie Hollenbeck stated that she would like to stop by Keith's and check out design, others expressed interest. Jason stated that it would be advantageous for an early start on greenhouse.

Volunteer committee: Colet -- master gardeners class started today, Grow! was discussed. For qualification as Master Gardeners, 30 hours of volunteer work was required, and though the Extension Office has many projects work at any community garden would qualify. Also, Colet brought up the Spring Work Party, and the quest to fit in a sizable Work Party every other weekend.

Website committee -- Dan Studer, stated that website is current, the notes are updated. He stated a change is that notes are now in pdf format instead of a MS Word format. Also, Dan placed Jennifer's newsletter on the website, on left hand side top for prime placement.

Jason Thomas talked about planting seeds for the farmer's market. Colet expressed that sales should be of specific types of seeds as varieties are important, due to maturation dates. Jason stated that the seed needed to be tested to know if it would sprout. Elsie was concerned in the design of the market and stated that Grow! should be too much in competition with locals who make living from plant sales. It was mentioned by Lee that Grow could focus on more specialty items. Fred Hendrickson stated that it's a market; so competition is fair. Jerry Pavia stated that concerned Farmer's Market representative should come to a Grow! meeting and state the case.

Jerry Pavia provided an update on seed from Dan Tomato Man, who's received seed request from 23 countries as an earloom grower. Dan is willing to provide seed in exchange for a demonstration garden that will collect seed. A secret for good tomatoes was mentioned -- no overhead watering. Varieties of seed acquired were, tomato: polish pastel, wilco latchesy, rose earloom, gildo patrobiomi -- 3 lb's, and many more tomato totalling in 17, also 5 varieties of winter squash: bush banana, butternut + others.

Tomato seeds were dispersed to interested *Starters*. 10 varieties left to plant. Call 267-7374 - jerries phone number if interested in being a *Starter*. Starting materials will be available.

It was stated that Grow! should be earloom seed saver down the road. Lee stated that she will be ordering from seed-saver company - could do a bulk order if interested.

A gardening tip cropped up -- Carrots with experienced growers are in raised in strips, no thinning. They are planted using a salt shaker containing seed and sand.

Jerry Pavia moved on to dance event taking place on April 16th. The Fairground board received the deposit and issued a receipt (given to secretary). Jerry was kind enough to pitch the attendees on 5 things needed to be headed up concerning the event: 1) Jerry Pavia has the band arrangements and accommodations 2) deal with concession, beer & wine license, etc. \$250 is selling price - Jason Thomas agreed 3) in charge of GROW display -- Dan Studer agreed 4) advertising & tickets (one time in paper, posters rule) 17 x 11 -- Chris Boeckman agreed 5) set up decorating & cleanup -- everybody agreed by lack of dissent.

It was discussed that there was a meeting for the 501c3 compliance on Saturday -- it was said to have been a productive meeting, Laura ran through the issues and sent in the paperwork. It was stated the need for committee worksheets.

Lee - Beverly has an aid 24/7 that would like to work in the garden, with Beverly, when she is there -- no objection raised. There was brought forth an idea also to have chicken growers raise a few extra dozen for the food bank. Someone agreed to bring it up to the 4H.

Karen (Pavia -- later arrival) wanted to do a Renaissance fairs at harvest time, the traditional festival -- eat a turkey leg, a lot of dance and live music.

Next week's meeting -- Elsie objected to the food to be paid out of GROW budget, that the \$40 intended to be spent was not in minutes. Jason Thomas stated that the membership meetings were to share ideas, tell new people what's going on, and focus on ideals, which was worth the expense to get people involved, as these traditional meetings were too boring for the majority of interested Grow! members. Elsie stated that Grow! should reevaluate effectiveness at the meeting on March 2nd, as needs are great, and \$40 may be precious. Meeting will be at Mugsy's, March 2nd.

Fred made a motion to reserve \$40 for snacks at the Grow! membership meeting on the 2nd of March. Dan Studer seconded.

Jerry Pavia asked a question on the prospective treasurer's behalf -- how often does this officer need to come to Grow! meetings? Twice a month was the answer, the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of a month.

Meeting was adjourned 7:05pm.