

Monday, April 13, 2009
Heart of the City Meeting & Public Potluck
Café Carpe, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Leslie started the meeting at 7:05 after we all enjoyed a very delicious and healthy potluck dinner.

Present: Leslie LaMuro, Steve Tesmer, Jill Kessenich, Karen Drydyk, Josie Gobel, Jill Ottow, John & Joan Callan, Kathy Kauffman, Mary Linton, Cynthia Holt, Jeremy Pinc, Kitty Welch, Bill Camplin, Libby Jones, Ann Engelman, Anders Yocom, Elaine Durrough-Johnson, Richard Miller

Josie spoke of a need for handicap raised bed at Hearty Gardens to make plots accessible for all. County is out of funds. Money has been raised by other donors, (Garden Club of Fort Atkinson, Paragon Industries, LLC) and Heart is giving \$125 to complete the job. Motion made by Mary Linton and seconded by Karen Drydyk that we give the money. Passed unanimously. If all \$125 is not needed, overage will be given for rain barrels at Hearty Gardens. The raised bed will be patterned after the raised bed at Fair Haven. Jill Kessenich talked of the new community garden plots (United Grove) at the United Way lot in downtown Fort Atkinson. United Way partner agencies and sponsors & donors are being asked for donations and in-kind services. Chris Brockl of Community Action Coalition is helping with consulting. Some things on the Wish List are:

- A professional run a hose from UWay building to the gardens. It would need to be keyed.
- Tilling of the plots initially
- Translation services for Latino population (Jill Ottow suggested that she might be able to help)
- Wheelbarrows
- Hoses
- Compost bins
- Mulching for paths
- Staking and cages
- Garden tools
- Water cans, cages, chicken wire

Mary Linton suggested that we call Ruth Johnson about a seed exchange for low income folks. Jill K said that the middle school principal, Rob Abbot, is looking to find middle schoolers that could help with the project.

Ed & Out: Cynthia Holt talked about the Rock the Earth party. Looking for volunteers for videotaping on the day of the event. Leslie agreed to contact Channel 15 for coverage.

Projects: Jill Ottow says they are plugging away at the garbage can project. Girl scouts will be painting a couple at the Rock the Earth party.

501 (c) 3 – Jill says that she needs to revise the application that just came back in the mail today to get us official. Hope it will help

Leslie thanked Steve Tesmer for his four years on the council. Got a standing O. Steve said, "I hope I didn't do harm." Went on to say that there are two openings on the planning commission. Those interested need to send a letter to the city manager. There is also a notice in tonight's Daily Union. Bill Camplin is on the commission now and can give advice about how to apply. The president of the city council decides who on the council will be appointed to the planning commission.

Action Item: Beth will send a thank you note to each of the council people who are no longer on.

Leslie reported that though the Industrial Development Corp, the city staff, and Chamber of Commerce were invited, none were able to come. Dianne Hrobsky did call, however, and answered Leslie's questions. (Leslie's questions: Is there some way that we can help to encourage green business in our industrial development of Fort Atkinson. It seems with MATC fort Campus investing in wind turbines and using it for education purposes that the time is ripe for encouraging that type of business development in Fort? 2. The Hearty Gardens at the Mason Farm site at Rose Lake has been a great asset to the community. We were wondering if there might be other areas in the city limits that could be developed into community gardens instead of being places that require mowing? And 3. What can HOC do to work more closely with the Chamber of Commerce, Fort Atkinson Industrial Development Corp (FAIDC), and our city administration to make Fort an even better place to live.)

Dianne mentioned that Sheldon is very ill, low energy. FAIDC uses covenants to evaluate business proposals. The FAIDC is made up of bankers and businesspeople. Dianne would like to come and speak at one of our meetings. She said she is "pro Heart of the City" and is "proud of the work we've done." Tom Kramp could not make it for Kiwanis clean up on the highways. Mentioned that he and his wife just bought a Prius; Leslie suggested that when the city goes to replace fleet to think electric. Leslie says we need to plant seeds. Jeff Woods also emailed that he couldn't make tonight's meeting, but asked for Heart's letter of support to include with a grant for DNR to help with stormwater retention pond. Leslie and Mary Linton got one out to him.

New Business

Bill Camplin said that Barb Lorman wanted to know if Heart would be interested in supporting some "junk art" along the bike path. Joe Pfeiffer who uses recycled materials in his clay stomps might also be approached.

Cynthia Holt talked with Director Oberle at the Hoard Museum about joining at Heart; Heart sponsoring a sign at the rain garden, Heart volunteering as a group to help build the rain garden this summer.

Leslie talked about membership forms at Rock the Earth. Leslie volunteered to help work the stand at Rock the Earth.

Beth will make a Google Calendar page for signing up for weekly stints manning the farmers market stand.

Action Item: Kitty and Steve will be on the sign committee.

Beth gave announcements about John Ikerd coming to Jefferson, Sustain Jefferson meeting, Eagle Camera, Conservation of Native Pollinators, Nate Hagens, Gasifier Therapy, Madison Permaculture Guild, Greener Oconomowoc Earth Day Event, Slow Food Wisconsin, Urban Microfarm Training, Leslie spoke about Saturday April 18 at Elegant Farmer, event about mockingbirds.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m. Mary Linton moved and Kathy Kauffman seconded for adjourning.