

Sitka Local Foods Network
Steering Committee Meeting
November 25, 2008 - 7:00pm
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Steering Committee Members Present:

Doug Osborne Natalie Sattler Kerry MacLane Linda Wilson

Members Absent: ?

Others Present: Charles Bingham Scott Snelson

Site selection status for the Community Greenhouse was discussed with the following key points brought forward for consideration:

- The Community Hospital Board approved SLFN to move forward with development of a plan to use the foundation area of the old hospital site for a community greenhouse. There were two “no” votes.
- The Community Hospital Board raised the following concerns during their deliberation:
 - potential health concerns contamination from the greenhouse
 - security of the basement which connects to the current hospital
 - maintenance responsibility of the wood burner heating system
- The Community Hospital is considering transfer to private ownership and this will affect local control of the site
- Consideration of secondary sites needs to continue in case the Community Hospital site fall through
- Alternative sites for consideration include UAS property on Japonski Island, the vacant lot next to the laundry on Sawmill Creek Road (owned by Roger Hames)

Mr. MacLane reported that there are two SLFN items on the Assembly agenda for the December 9th meeting. 1) Assembly approval of the grant application for a feasibility study for wood heating of the Sitka Community Hospital and Community Greenhouse; and 2) Approval for SLFN to develop a prospectus to build a greenhouse on the Community Hospital site. Assembly member, Jack Ozment has agreed to bring these items forward.

Mr. MacLane stated that he intends to speak personally with each Assembly member prior to the meeting.

In preparation for a the Assembly meeting SLFN members need to consider how to answer questions that are likely to be posed, such as the concerns raised by the Community Hospital Board and how the community greenhouse will be funded.

SLFN will not be requesting any City funds from the Assembly. Planning for and construction of the greenhouse is expected to be funded through grants and donations. A list of revenue sources to cover operational expenses of the greenhouse was created as follows:

- Membership dues
- Donations
- Foundation endowment (bequeaths from estates)
- Rental for events such as weddings
- Sale of high value crops
- Potential billing for horticultural therapy
- Small retail gift shop with sales of relevant items (Gimbal Botanicals, Back Bay Botanicals, local photographers work, cook books, etc...)
- Funding from Farm to School program
- Tours / Cruise Line support
- University classes
- Annual fund raising event (Running of the Boots, Spring Party) requires research

Mr. MacLane has attempted to address the liability issue with calls to the City Attorney and City Planning Director. Ms. Hillhouse is currently unavailable, and as yet, Mr. Williams has not returned the call. Further research is needed to find precedent for City leases to non-profits. Ms. Wilson and Mr. Snelson will assist in this research.

Task assignments are:

Ms. Wilson and Mr. Snelson research details on City leases to non-profits – look at Sitka Historical Society and Fortress of the Bear for examples.

Mr. MacLane will draft a one page summary sheet about the greenhouse project to be included in the Assembly packets for the December 3rd meeting.

Mr. Osborne and Mr. MacLane will explore community partnerships and identify potential user groups for the greenhouse keeping in mind that SLFN would like to find a permanent fiscal agent.

Ms. Sattler agreed to assist with photocopying materials for the Assembly packets.

All committee members are to think about and look for potential fundraising events.