

Columbia Gorge Earth Center board meeting minutes 5-14-08

In attendance: Jaimes Valdez, Pierce Louis, Jared Fuscaldo, Bruce Bolme, David Skakel, and Tomi Owens.

New Business

- GRC loan for work truck (\$5,000). David co-signed on this loan, which should ultimately be paid by the awarded DEQ grant.
- Fund Development meetings: David has been meeting with several folks to brainstorm about possible events or other ways to add revenue for CGEC. Karen Ford, Katie Sundby and Sierra Montgomery have so far attended.

Correspondence

- Ford Family Foundation: David has been corresponding with Ford regarding possible overlap between their “community collaborations” interests and the conceptualized Gorge association for nonprofits and community groups.
- Gorge Games: much discussion, ironing out the details of our relationship.

Strategic Plan- monthly review (suspended)

Old Business -Previous Action Items

- Monk> looking for nonprofit sponsor for his pest management and/or produce yield research project called: 2008 Nutrition project”. Made presentation. Board members were generally very supportive of his important work and intentions. Some concerns about wanting public disclosure regarding research results, considering the private funder (Oak Hill Foundation).
- GRC Contractors license> Indemnification

Committee Reports:

Gorge Grown Food Network

This month, GGFN received partial funding from OIB for the purchase of a 14-foot box truck that will allow us to launch our pilot mobile farmers' market. This season we will visit Goldendale, Stevenson, Dufur, and Odell and sell fruits and vegetables at 'market' sites in each community. We are seeking additional funding from Providence Hospital's foundation, Skyline Foundation, and several local business sponsors. We will also take the mobile market to Gorge Games in July. The Thursday afternoon farmers' market opens for the season on June 19; we're in the planning stages and have secured pro bono marketing / publicity work. We are also debuting a hot food booth at the market featuring dishes prepared by local restaurants - proceeds will return to the Thursday and Mobile markets.

We are developing a new logo / visual identity for GGFN that will debut with the start of the market season. The Community Food Assessment is still going; the survey portion of the process is nearly complete and now we're in data compilation/analysis mode. We'll hold a series of public forums starting in late June to get community input and ideas toward improving food security and the local food system. Our *Who's Your Farmer?* local buying guide is on track to be published in late June / early July; it will be the first 'local buying guide' for local food & farm products in the Gorge and will also feature educational articles / how-tos. It is paid for by advertising dollars. We are planning a fundraising event in August in partnership with the Hood River Valley Residents' Committee. It will feature live music, a speaker, a silent art auction, and local food by Nora's Fish House. It's going to be a busy summer! Sarah Hackney-Coordinator

Gorge Rebuild-it Center

Although April sales are slightly higher than April last year, our projected revenue continues to be concerning. The "housing slowdown" may be affecting us less than the lumber yards, but it is definitely hitting us. We had to dip into savings for the first time ever. It's official: Gorge Rebuild-it Center is now a licensed contractor. That enables us to do skim work (remove cabinets, windows, doors, etc), while the larger deconstruction jobs are being handled by Green Home Construction. So we are starting to see lots of "thorny" lumber arrive (which is great). But we expect to have trouble affording to process (de-nail) that lumber. For various reasons, lumber prices have plummeted in the last year. Likewise, Home Depot keeps slashing their prices. Thus, we need to sell our used lumber (and other items) for less, while our processing (labor) costs remain the same or rise. We accepted a local candidate (Keeley Harding) as our Americorps LINKS summer helper. In other news, Stan Loop (our new full-time field rep) is feverishly scouting for donations and possible deconstruction and skim work. We are especially interested in acquiring more cabinet sets. And now that we have our contractor's license, Stan can remove cabinets if needed. Otherwise, lots of little jobs. But we await the big Cape Horn deconstruction job with Green Home Construction coming in the next 4-6 weeks (5,000 sq ft house/4-car garage/60'x60' barn). GRC is still planning towards actually re-locating that barn to GRC. The Hood River Lions has allowed us to divert grant funds (\$6,600) in order to pay for doing that. Even so, we will likely need to undertake a small capital campaign to pull this off (+/- \$10,000). That barn would double our indoor capacity (5,600 sq ft)!

Film & Lecture

Ben Zimmerman conducted last month's film & lecture series with about 30 people in attendance. He said the event went well and he was able to solicit feedback from some of the audience. This month F&L will pair up with Green Drinks on Wed 21st. Drinks at 5:45, Jaime's talk at 6 and the film, Kilowatt Ours, will play at 7. Hopefully with the numerous activities, we should see a good turnout. The decision to continue into June is still in the air (I will be out of town for 3 weeks in June/July).

Rediviva Press

Our latest issue was a big success. We have been getting very positive feedback from readers. We feel our team is finally gelling into a core group of designers, writers and administrators. Slowly, we are building our advertising base. We are trying to reach out to all sorts of local businesses and could use help in promoting

the "events calendar." Along those lines, we have added a second events calendar we affectionately call "The Do-Gooders Guide to the Gorge." This is a round-up of all the non-profit events, classes, or calls to the community and I urge the members of CGEC to send us any events you know of and contacts. This is another "free page" but one we feel is important to the mission. Rediviva is pursuing an official relationship with Moria Reynolds of Po Cards. By piggy-backing on the existing Po Cards distribution system Rediviva will reach audiences all across the Gorge, in Portland and in Bend. This will mean printing more copies of the magazine. As always, we look forward to your input and PLEASE-- if you have an opinion you would like to share with our readers, the Letter to the Editor page is always looking for concise, topical commentary.

Green Drinks

In May 08, CGEC will launch a local chapter of the international green social networking phenomenon, Green Drinks. The concept brings together folks from non-profits, academia, government, and industry as well as others with expertise or interest in sustainability for a fun and relaxed evening of unashamed networking and cocktail. Greendrinks.org describes the event as: "...very simple and unstructured, but many people have found employment, made friends, developed new ideas, done deals and had moments of serendipity. It's a force for the good..."

Details for the May event are as follows:

Date: First Green Drinks is Wednesday, May 21. Others to be bimonthly or quarterly
Time: 5:45 PM. At 6pm Gorge Resident, Jaimes Valdez, a Renewable Energy Specialist with the Portland Office of Sustainable Development will speak about potential in The Gorge. 7:00PM Film and Lecture will start upstairs
Location: First Green Drinks will be at Solstice Café in Bingen, WA. Subsequent events TBD. Contact: Jared Fuscaldo – email: gorgegreendrinks@gmail.com To learn more about the Green Drinks concept, visit: www.greendrinks.org

RiverHOURS

GLCC held a reception for Michael Shuman at Solstice Café in Bingen on Monday April 14. The Shuman workshop was held in White Salmon on Tuesday April 15 and was attended by about 60 people. The GLCC steering committee met the evening of Tuesday April 22. Bruce, Zoe, Scot and Rebecca attended a showing of The Power of Community in The Dalles on Friday April 25 and explained RiverHOURS in the discussion that followed. I attended a meeting of Goldendale businesses the morning of May 1, and several steering committee members participated in the BAH that afternoon. The meeting with Stevenson businesses scheduled for May 6 has been rescheduled for June 3. I will attend a grand opening of a business [White Mountain Wellness] in White Salmon on May 9 to promote RiverHOURS. The next GLCC steering committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 21 at 6:30 pm in the Hood River Library. We have \$286 in the bank and welcomed 3 new members in the last month.