

Board Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2011, Called to order at 7:00 PM

Board Members Present:

- Chris Voss, President
- X Kathryn Baecht, Secretary
- X Don Brennecke, Treasurer
- X Alan Richard, President Elect
- Cathy Cox, Board Member (2 year)
- Micki Wright, Board Member (2 year)
- X Scott Lipsett, Past President, Board Member (1 year)
- Nathan Melson, Past President
- X Paula Brennecke, Guest
- X Faye Wedell, Board Member (1 year)
- X Judy Russell, Board Member (2 years)

Treasurer's Report: Don reported that the bank balance is \$593.36.

Secretary's Report: Approved as distributed via e-mail

Proposed Bonham Community Garden:

Robert Roach and Paul Cardwell attended the meeting as guests to discuss the Community Garden. The following rules and membership (as proposed by Chris via email) were unanimously approved:

The soil test came back, and Randy Moore reported that the site is an excellent pick for a Community Garden. Phosphorus is high and Potassium is high. Nitrogen is low but could easily be amended.

RULES:

If I must abandon my plot for any reason, I will notify the garden leadership.

I will keep weeds at a minimum and maintain the areas immediately surrounding my plot if any.

If my plot becomes unkempt, I understand I will be given 1 week's notice to clean it up. At that time, it will be re-assigned or tilled in.

I will keep trash and litter out of the plot, as well as from adjacent pathways and fences.

I will participate in the fall cleanup of the garden.

I will plant tall crops where they will not shade neighboring plots.

I will pick only my own crops unless given permission by another plot user.

I will not use fertilizers, insecticides or weed repellents that will in any way affect other plots.

I agree to volunteer 1 hour per month toward community gardening efforts.

I will not bring pets to the garden.

I understand that neither the garden group nor owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I

THEREFORE AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE GARDEN GROUP AND OWNERS OF THE LAND FOR ANY LIABILITY, DAMAGE, LOSS OR CLAIM THAT OCCURS IN CONNECTION WITH

USE OF THE GARDEN BY ME OR ANY OF MY GUESTS

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT:

Name:

Address:

Contact Phone:

Email:

Would you like to be added to the garden google group (used for communicating between members):
Y/N

How many people will be using your plot?

What are the names of the others using your plot?

If you are part of an organization or group, who is the group's contact person?

By signing this agreement I will:

- follow the garden's rules; maintain my plot or designate someone else to maintain it if I am unable

Going forward, Chris will meet with Corby to let him know that a garden organization has officially formed and adopted rules. Hopefully after this meeting we will have the final go ahead to begin work in the garden.

Alan and Paula agreed to work on a couple of proposal for the garden design. We will need at least 5 plots to start with and perhaps should mark off a few more for new members.

Earth Day Review:

Approximately \$140 was raised from the raffle basket at Earth Day. Several people remarked that we did not have an ideal location for our booth. Kathryn stated that she did not feel that the amount of time that Chris had to volunteer doing graphic design (over 20 hours) was worth the benefit of being given the booth. Further, Kathryn felt that CORE should have been invited to participate in Earth Day without having to donate because we are the area's only nonprofit exclusively devoted to environmental issues. It was agreed that we will try to participate differently in Earth Day next year, perhaps by giving an educational workshop.

Hydraulic Fracturing:

Kathryn reported that she had read an article from last year in the Herald Democrat that stated that a project to drill for natural gas using hydraulic fracturing was approved within the city limits of Sherman. Discussion followed of the dangers associated with this type of drilling. Paul stated that he believed that if the Grayson County water supply became contaminated, it could very well spread to Fannin County.

Judy stated that she believed that there is a well in Fannin County owned by the Rysers that had been drilled using hydraulic fracturing. That well is very near the proposed Bois d'Arc Reservoir. Judy volunteered to call the Rysers and try to find out the details, as this could impact the Reservoir.

Kathryn agreed to contact Kathy Williams (who wrote the Herald Democrat article) and Peter Shultze to see if either of them have any information about the issue in Fannin County. Everyone agreed to ask around to people they know to see what we can learn.

Heritage Day Booth:

Paula brought up the possibility of having a booth at Heritage Day in Bonham. Heritage Day is a one-day festival held on the square in July. It was agreed that CORE would have a booth with the intent of signing up community gardeners and promoting the Texoma Grown directory. We will also do another raffle basket, this time of fresh local produce.

Member Communications:

Paula brought up the issue of member communications. Paul sometimes has issues that he would like to email the membership about but this option is currently blocked. It is blocked because the google group used to get flooded with too many messages from members who did not use discretion in the number of messages they sent. Alan suggested that folks be encouraged not to email out news articles. It was agreed to try resetting the group and monitor the situation to make sure it does not get out of hand.

There was discussion of how we can better connect with our membership and get them involved and active. Kathryn stated that she believes we need to reach out personally to people more. Scott suggested that we all make a renewed effort to contact people and get them involved.

Budget:

Kathryn stated that she thinks CORE should have a budget so that we can manage our funds better and not end up in the red (as we are now). Kathryn agreed to draw up a draft budget. It was agreed that we need to prioritize paying Don and Paula back for the money we owe them. Alan suggested that everyone on the board put in \$20 per month until they are paid back, but Kathryn was resistant to this idea as she and Chris just paid for printing for the Earth Day materials. A final decision was not reached other than we need to continue to address this issue.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Kathryn Baecht, Secretary