

Nechako Valley Food Network
May 6, 2009
Minutes

7:00

In Attendance: Henry and Donna Klassen, Katie and Steve Byslma, Susie Blattner, Devin Lindsay, Lisa Burgener, Maya Sullivan, Susan Armstrong, Gerald Caron, Michelle Roberge, Ron Wiebe, Denise Dowswell

Introductions

Schools Update (Ray) 6 greenhouses built (Mapes, Evelyn Dickson School, Sinkut View in Vanderhoof) by Young Trades program under the supervision of a contractor

The Bean Greenhouses (Susan) frame constructed. folks with disabilities to learn horticultural skills. will donate food to food bank and the community kitchen

Trade Show Booth (Nechako Healthy Community Alliance)

-make links to kids : container planting (boots etc.) with handout on how to grow seeds in containers or spuds in tubs: enter into the Fall Fair container growing contest.

Distribute seeds??? (Other Educational Components?)

-promote Farmer's Market: thermometer with \$5,000 as peak. Accept donations for Farmer's Market start up costs.

-vendors to put together basket of goods . . . tickets in for a draw for the basket

Action: Need to set a date for opening of Farmer's Market to be able to promote it at the Trade Show *How about aiming for June 25th . . . second to last day of school . . . inviting classes . . . having entertainment, etc.*

-collect names for those willing to provide gardening/food storage mentorship and workshops. and those who seek it.

-collect names of people interested in entertaining at the Farmer's Market.

-Why buy local? write- up other timely, relevant educational tidbits?

-Mission, this season's goals on display board

Action: Please send digital photos to bytes@nvfoodnetwork.ca by May 13th to create a digital slideshow. Need photos of kids/folks gardening, raising animals, canning and preserving food. Etc.

Michelle, Maya, Lisa, Devin, Janie to develop Trade Show Booth Design.

Omenica Beetle Action Coalition Dialogues: Agricultural Strategy

Wednesday, May 13th. 6-9 PM CNC

School District to send two representatives: an employee from Project Agriculture and a community member

Susie Blattner will potentially attend

Please fill out the survey for the OBAC that was distributed through the NV Food

Network mail if you can not attend the meeting. Very important to provide our input.

Education and Aid Ideas

- several folks discussed the need for garden mentorship in the area: people make the same mistakes
- with all stages of food . . . including storing and preserving it
- Fall Fair Booth will be available free of charge to Nechako Healthy Community Alliance (NVFN) theme: Going Green

Mission #2: To educate and aid individuals to grow their own produce in an environmentally sound way

This Season: Goals

1. Use display booths to identify potential community garden mentorship volunteers and their skills and also identify those who would like to receive mentorship.
2. Create an educational display for the Nechako Valley Exhibition Society's Fall Fair.
3. Host at least one workshop on preserving food before October.
4. Identify two 'hot' community topics of interest re: food production/preserving and work with CNC to schedule workshops on those topics for the next calendar year.
5. Provide support to School District #91's Food Production in the School Initiative by writing letters of support, networking community experts with schools, and by assisting in any other ways suggested by School District # 91 staff.
6. Update NVFN website and Bulletin Board monthly with educational articles, pictures, recipes, and information.

Winter: Goals

1. Develop a structured garden mentorship program.
2. Assess the relative feasibility of potential community projects (Interagency Garden, Community Land, Neighborhood Gardens, Community Garden) and if feasible, develop a project plan for next season.

Mission # 1: To promote the growth and distribution of local agricultural products

This Season: Goals

1. To network local producers and local consumers through an online database
2. To network local producers and local consumers through a print based medium
3. To establish a viable Farmer's Market that will continue to next year

Farmer's Market (Susie)

Council approved Riverside Park as the location. Thursdays from noon until ?
Proposed Membership fee \$10 --- discussion about this as it would be a fee to the

Nechako HCA. Can we call it something else? A vendor's fee?
Need \$760 to start. Vendors have come forward with \$200.
Need \$560 for association fees, insurance, business license (needed for District of Vanderhoof), business name

Would need \$2,000 for start-up if we include signage costs.
Venue, time, and place should be made 'removable/replaceable' on the Farmer's Market signs in case there is a change in venue next year.

If not enough funding is raised from donations for the signs, we could ask Lindsay Georgeson to paint signs for us.

Nechako HCA may have some funding after the trade show display is created. Could put towards the FM start-up costs.

Would like to start in June.
Entertainment to kick it off?

Donations from the public? At trade show?

Nechako Healthy Community Alliance is responsible for filling out the forms because they are the non-profit society. They must also decide the membership and booth fees (with feedback from the vendors). Should Nechako Healthy Community Alliance also be responsible for collecting booth fees??

Susie to gather paperwork to submit to the committee for their May 27th meeting.

If possible, Farmer's Market is to have a separate file under the Nechako Healthy Community Alliance account. Susie Blattner will have signing authority on that file and also the elected Treasurer from the Farmer's Market Committee. Denise and Donna will help with the Farmer's Market.

Farmer's Market: Next Steps

- 1. Contact the Express re: writing an article about the Farmer's Market . . . to be in paper by May 20th latest**
- 2. Pass on all necessary documentation to Nechako HCA by May 27th**
- 3. Decide on a Treasurer, so bank account can be opened**
- 4. Decide on a date for the opening of the market . . . (how about June 25th . . . second to last day of school . . . big celebration in the park with entertainment etc. invite schools/preschools etc. to opening ???) How long do the forms (association, etc.) take to process? Is this a reasonable date?**

**Next Meeting . . . In Early June . . . Full Focus: Farmer's Market Start-Up
Date and Venue: T.B.A.**

How can we make it as successful as possible ???

**Devin has offered to chair the next meeting.
Thank you, Susan, for facilitating this one!!**

