



Occidental Community Council Minutes for August 15, 2009

PRESENT: David Dillman, Becky Ennis, Jerrey Hodgdon (Santa Rosa YMCA), Sherry Huss, Miekie Kahl, Diane Masura, Fawn Nekton, Jennifer Nichols, Susan O'Rourke, Phil Persons, Mary Szecey and Alissa Bushnell Tappan. President Szecey called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were no meeting notes from the July 2009 meeting (Sherry was not present). At today's meeting, it was mentioned that a total of \$400 was distributed to two groups – details will be in next month's notes.

MEMBERSHIP: Alissa Bushnell Tappan attended the meeting on 8/15 and has expressed interest in getting involved. We are open to new members and encourage anyone interested in getting involved to attend our monthly meetings – the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:30am – noon at The Occidental Community Center.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1). **Levi Leipheimer's King Ridge GranFondo** bike ride (not a race) will be coming through Occidental on Saturday, October 3rd. This event is a fundraiser to keep AmGen coming to Santa Rosa and the North Bay. There will be three levels of participation – and the GranFondo (which is the 103 mile ride is routed through Occidental) is the most challenging. The ride(s) start and end at The Finley Center in Santa Rosa. For more information, go to: <http://www.levisgranfondo.com/> 2). **The West County Seed Bank** – "Saving our Locally Grown Seed" is meeting monthly at Salmon Creek School – the next meeting is Saturday, August 27th in the morning, for more information, please contact Sara Mc Camat 829-5234 or saramc@emeraldearth.org 3). **MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Tuesday, September 15th from 7:00pm – 9:00pm is the "SAVE THE OCCIDENTAL COMMUNITY CENTER" meeting.** It will take place at the Occidental Community Center (Graton Rd & Bohemian Highway). Please bring your ideas about activities, partnerships, funding, management and anything else you would like to contribute. Also, the Union Hotel will offer a special meal at 6:00pm before the meeting – contact 874-3444 for details.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The July treasure's report is below. We did not have an updated report for this meeting, that will be provided at next month's meeting.

Web Site: Susan is doing a great job of updating the website with Jennifer providing monthly highlights. Thanks to you both for all your help here.

CRAFTS FAIRE: a). Vendor applications are due September 1, 2009 and they can be downloaded from the website; b). Sherry will post a "Call to Crafters" on various websites reminding them of the deadline (STATUS: DONE – posted on WACCO, Monte Rio Yahoo Group, Craigs List Northbay, pressdemocrat.com and petaluma360.com); c). Need to coordinate the food plan with Kaye Martin; d). Jennifer and Dominique will be in charge of the vendor selection process; e). Sherry will work on PR (with help from Alissa); f). Mark Wiley will help onsite (the Thursday before – 12/10) with setup; g). Fawn has a plan for signage; and h). more planning will take place at next month's meeting – and, we invite the community to get involved!

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Crafts Faire applications have been coming in.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE: No resource requests have been submitted.

PR & CORRESPONDENCE: No updates.

NEW BUSINESS: 1). Save The Occidental Community Center – this is going to be an ongoing mission over the course of the next year. Jeremy Hodgdon, Sr. Program Director from the Santa Rosa YMCA visited our meeting and shared with us what is involved from their perspective (financially and resource wise) in keeping the Occidental Community Center as a base for West County activities. They are open to creative ways to keep things running in Occidental and have been a good partner as we start this process. They are currently managing the building, running programs out of the building in addition to their support of after school programs at Salmon Creek School. More details will be discussed in our September 15th meeting (7pm-9pm), and we are encouraging all parties to come and participate in the future of this building (known as The Occidental YMCA and The Occidental Community Center and Tennis Courts); **2). David Dillman presented the Community Council with an Occident Community Tennis Courts Resurfacing Proposal.** The tennis courts are old and deteriorating (with major crack lines running across both courts). David has done his homework and submitted a detailed proposal with a couple of options to move forward. His Ad Hoc Committee (David Dillman, Gerard Nebesky and Diane Senia) have been thorough and have even been able to negotiate a discounted price as well as get the County to provide assistance. The total, discounted price for getting the courts resurfaced is: \$11,600. David and his committee have secured a \$3,000 contribution from County Regional Parks, leaving \$ 8,600 to be raised. A motion was made and approved by The Occidental Community Council to make a donation of \$ 1,000 for the project, and pledge up to another \$1,000 as a match grant if a community member pledges \$1,000. (NOTE: As of 8/23, it has been reported to me that David’s team has been able to secure the funding that they need - \$6,600 from the community, \$2,000 from Occidental Community Council and \$3,000 from the County Regional Parks). Congratulations to this team for doing all of the research, mobilizing and working all resources to get this project funded. This will bring new life to community and we are looking forward to tennis classes for local kids being offered again. Thanks to the community for this level of support! **3). Phil Persons updated our group on The West County Community Seed Bank (see above) and also on his involvement with The Friends of The Occidental Library** – if anyone is interested in learning more about the initiatives of The Friends of The Occidental Library, or getting involved, please contact Phil at ppersons@sonic.net **4).** Susan O’Rourke shared with the Community Council Board about the possibility of getting funds from some local resources – Mary Szcsey will work on creating a needs document for programs that could be funded if we had the funds – more details on this in the future.

SCHOOLS: School starts on August 19th and there are 4 new teachers at Salmon Creek School this year. Thanks to Jennifer and the selection committee for getting involved in the interview process.

THE "Y": Jeremy Hodgdon talked to us about some of the Y programs and notified us that Becky Ennis will be assuming a new role at the YMCA that will take her away from her day to day activities in Occidental. We thank Becky for her energy and the great work she has done for the Occidental Y and the Community over the past year and a half – she has done a great job! Felicity will be the Y’s transition contact. And, just as a reminder, the Occidental YMCA does rent the building and are open to anyone interested. Their rates are:

ROOM	CAPACITY			
Auditorium (79’ x 47’) Commercial rates: \$50 hour Non-Commercial rates: \$40 hour Non Profit rates: \$30 hour Note – there is a 4-hour minimum for rental of the Auditorium and Kitchen and for any rentals after 1:00am – add \$10 to the hourly rate	Assembly – 527	Seated – 260	Dining – 246	Dine/Dance – 110
Activity Room (27’ x 15’) Commercial rates: \$30 hour Non-Commercial rates: \$25 hour Non Profit rates: \$20 hour Note – there is a 2-hour minimum for rental of the Activity Room	Assembly – 59	Seated – 45	Dining – 28	Dine/Dance – n/a

Kitchen

Commercial rates: \$17 hour

Non-Commercial rates: \$15 hour

Non Profit rates: \$13 hour

Note – there is a 4-hour minimum for rental of the Activity Room

HEALTH CENTER: The Health Center has lost funding as part of California State Budget and is focused on getting the word out.

COMMUNITY: No updates.

Meeting was adjourned at noon.

Next meeting is Saturday, September 19th, at 10:30am at the Occidental Community Center