

Create Pocahontas Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2010
Snowshoe Career Center

Introductions were made.

Announcements

Blair Sharp – Monday, March 15 there will be a pot-luck dinner for people interested in locally grown food in any capacity.

Create WV Conference in Huntington this year. Last year it was at Snowshoe. The focus of the conference and Create WV is to improve quality on a grass-roots level.

There was a marketing workshop at the library on September 4, 2009.

Reta Griffith – The last time the group met was in October, and there was a focus on local foods. There were also separate groups that were generated from that meeting. Those groups were Education & Talent, Diversity and Tolerance, Media & Technology and Third Places. Reports and updates on each were given.

Education & Talent – Margaret Worth

Junior Achievement (JA) is going on. The Snowshoe Foundation gave \$5k to generate 10 classes. Currently 8 of the 10 are happening. One positive outcome from JA is that test scores increase.

Diversity & Tolerance – Shirlene Groseclose

Some of the current projects include diversity through school posters that promote inclusiveness. She is also working on scheduling speakers from Snowshoe to speak to different classes. The final project will be a marketing campaign highlighting inclusiveness.

Media & Technology – Reta Griffith and Drew Tanner

The Pocahontas Times has a new web-site. Drew Tanner talked about some of the benefits of the interactive site:

- Community Calendar
- Registered members blog
- “Pay to Play” (different levels)
- News content separate from members section

WVMR also has new programming/marketing opportunities

- Town-crier
- Saturday AM show
- Exploring other call-in type programming
- Commissioners Corner

If businesses register on the Pocahontas Times site they can post their events and meetings. Subscribers can also have their own web-site through the Times' site. The cost for an annual subscription is approximately \$440. There was a discussion about the calendar being the one that everyone would use, and that it could become a center-point for information if everyone used it.

Reta asked for a volunteer to compile a list of "hot-spot's" in Pocahontas County. These are spots where visitors can go to access the Internet. Allen Johnson volunteered to start compiling this list. A suggestion was made to compile a "local producer" list also and Blair Sharp volunteered to start this list.

Allen Johnson mentioned an organization called Generation WV. There are several chapters nurturing leadership in West Virginians under 45. This project is intended to draw younger people to civic life. He suggested that Create Pocahontas might be able to encourage participation in this.

Reta Griifith asked the group how they would be organized.

Blair talked about the local food movement and asked some questions about how the Create WV group could assist with various community movements. Some ideas were:

- Chair or no-chair
- Will these other groups be sub-committees of Create Pocahontas?
- How can Create Pocahontas apply for grants?
- How are we organizing Create Pocahontas?

Some discussion ensued about the organization of the Create Pocahontas group. One idea that was generated was that the group would use existing organizations with a non-profit designation to apply for grant funding. The Create Pocahontas group would serve as a connecting organization for groups seeking funding, and groups willing to apply.

There was more discussion on the organization of the group, and the following was decided:

- There will be regular meetings
- The main purpose of these meetings is to generate ideas
- Create Pocahontas group will be a "think-tank"
- There will be some form of structure
- A networking resource group
- Connecting people
- Keep the name, Create Pocahontas

Reta Griffith agreed to be the lead contact for the group. She asked the group how they felt about e-mail sharing, and some had concerns. It was agreed that she would be the point of contact for the group.

Coby Brown offered to help coordinate.

Shirlene Groseclose suggested that we create a contact list of people around the table.

Coby, Reta and Drew Tanner will work on a project to establish the web-page as a forum and contact point.

The group decided that there will be monthly meetings every 4th Wednesday at 4:00 PM.

The following projects were discussed:

Mural project-there is a mural project that is underway and will be located on a building downtown. There was initially some concern about the site, and that it may cover up a sign for the Farmers Market. It was suggested that the sign be incorporated into the mural.

High Rocks Vista is working with Haiti if anyone is interested in donating money on their web-site.

Doug asked about the diversity of the group and who was missing. Reta will invite representatives from other community agencies/organizations to attend.

Shirlene Groseclose is taking students to Costa Rica over Spring Break. The group indicated they would like to hear from the students that went. Shirlene offered to set up a presentation for the group at another meeting.

Jason Bauserman said that Janet Morrison gave away clothes and presents in Durbin over the winter and holidays. She was a missionary to Africa before settling in Pocahontas County. There were 275 families that received free items. She would like to start a youth center in Frank. This could be a 3rd place?

Coby talked about the Artisan store-front at Snowshoe Mountain. WV Living Magazine will have a store-front, and they are willing to talk to local artisan groups. The contact person is Sandy Burkee.

Erol and Coby coordinated a meeting on March 17 at 5:00 at the Snowshoe Career Center. This meeting will be about "beautifying town" and community development. Paul Detsch will be speaking.

Sherry Radcliffe announced that the Annual Chamber meeting will be at Mountain Quest on March 25. Also, the Chamber has a Vista starting half-time in May.

Roger Trussler announced that the Nursing program at the High School has 14 students enrolled. New River is at the Career Center every Monday and Tuesday.

Margaret Worth talked about a meeting where there was a discussion about legislation for WV that would allow for Charter School law. She indicated that chartering agency is important piece. Legislation has been presented which sets agency at the state level, not local level.

Erol announced that there will be sustainable/organic farming workshops in May, July and September.

There will be a Farmers Market Meeting on 3/4 in Bath County.

There will be a Small Farms Conference from 3/1 - 3/4.

Reta adjourned the meeting as there were no other announcements. Next meeting will be on March 24 at 4:00 at the Snowshoe Career Center.