

## VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB

### MINUTES

September 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President, Michele Mosher at 6:32 pm.

In attendance: Beth Benjamin, Dusty Gipson, Hilary Stanley, Vince Waskell, Mary Hammer, Sherry Skold, Nancy Macy, Michele Mosher, Sheila Delany, Nancy Gerdt, Donna Ziel.

Guest: Julie Hendriks

**Reflection:** Donna reflected on her thoughts as she watched two homes in her neighborhood burn in the previous week. She commented on the exceptional work of the firefighters and of the care and concern of neighbors for those whose homes were being destroyed. She said that a neighbor wants to host a gathering of neighbors to develop a network for future emergencies. She volunteered to facilitate use of the system currently in place at MCR when the gathering occurs.

**Redwood Mountain Faire revisited.** Nancy M. reported that Roaring Camp is interested in hosting something like the old Redwood Mountain Faire. They have invited representatives of VWC to attend a meeting at Roaring Camp to discuss details of the project. Julie Hendriks is willing to lead the effort. She attended this VWC meeting to answer questions. After some discussion, Vince and Nancy M. agreed to meet with Georgina and Julie and to report back at the October Board meeting.

**Fall Meet and Greet.** Nancy G. reviewed needs for the event and circulated a sign-up sheet. Last year approximately 40 people attended and we generated 8 new members from the event. The committee consists of Michele, Nancy, Beth, and Vince.

**Database.** It was reported that Shaelagh will do oversight of the checkbook and of the membership. Nancy M. has asked Laurel Becker about taking on this responsibility, as well. She is thinking about it. It is expected to take three hours per quarter. A discussion ensued as to the range of job responsibilities. These would include welcome notes to new members and email broadcasts to the membership.

**Speakers.** The question was raised as how community members seeking to speak to the VWC Board should be selected. It was agreed that the topic(s) to be discussed must be congruent with the VWC mission. The Executive Committee will bring a recommendation to the Board for approval of the process or criteria for inviting speakers. The Board agreed to invite Ann Lopez, author of a book on farm workers to speak to us at the November meeting, focusing her talk on issues related to VWC's mission. COPA will be invited to speak at the December VWC Board meeting.

**Community Foundation.** Mary and Donna reported on research they had done to address questions raised by the Board regarding the feasibility of placing some of VWC's finances in CF funds. Michele indicated that we will discuss our reserve funds; what the optimum amount should be and how it should be used. The Scholarship Committee was asked to come to the next meeting with a recommendation as to the amount that should be held in reserve for scholarships.

**Safety Report.** It was moved (Beth) and seconded (Sheila) to accept the safety report, prepared by our Worker's Compensation organization. Nancy M. will bring to the next Board meeting the items that need to be addressed, per the report.

**Audit.** Vince, Mary, Sheila, Nancy M. volunteered to do the next audit.

**Candidates' Forum.** Sherry reported that there will be no Candidates' Forum prior to the November election.

**Valley Fire Awareness Program.** Sherry reported that this group meets regularly. Their signs are still up, but banners (across Highway 9) are not, due to CalTrans requirements. This group will meet through September and then start again in the spring.

**Emergency Faire.** Sherry reported that since Liz Taylor-Selling's hours have been reduced at MCR, she no longer has this project at the top of her priority list. She may have to discontinue the Valley Emergency Preparation group due to lack of attendance. Nancy reported that CERT training is ongoing, but that only one fire department in the valley is involved. Nancy M. will ask Boulder Creek Fire to support the CERT program. Sherry agreed to contact the Ben Lomond Fire Chief with the same request.

**River Road Clean-up.** Nancy M. reported that this annual event will happen on October 18. She needs crews from 8:45 am - noon and from 11:45 am to 3:00 pm. Sites are located in Felton, Ben Lomond and Boulder Creek. She circulated a sign-up sheet for people to help. She is asking for people to preview sites that need particular attention toward the river, north of Boulder Creek and south of Felton. She reported that she had already submitted information about this event to the press.

**Mayan Sale.** It was reported that Roberta wants to manage the sale again this year. It was approved to allocate up to \$150 to purchase a 2' x 12' banner saying "Mayan Sale Here Today". Nancy G. will check on possible alternate space (vacant office space) in Felton to hold the sale. Mary and Donna will look into additional women's cooperatives we may want to include in the sale.

**Bulbs.** Beth reported that more order forms are available and encouraged people to purchase more bulbs.

**Scholarship.** Hilary reported that she has received confirmation of enrollment on three of the four awardees. Scholarship checks are released as confirmation of enrollment is received. A photo, for use in the newsletter and/or the website, has been taken of the winners along with members of the committee.

**Inventory of Shed.** Hilary recommended purchasing additional dishes to bring our inventory back to 100 pieces of each item. She will check on prices at Ledyards and report back.

**Scrapbook.** Nancy has not heard from Cindy as to status of the project.

**Education Committee.** Dusty reported that a \$2000 grant was received from the Mihalik Fund through the Community Foundation to

support the purchase of items for the Ready for School bags. Items were selected based upon what Kindergarten teachers told Dusty were most needed. There were a few extra items and they were donated to VCU. The bags were distributed to SLE, BCE and the homeschool administrator on the Friday before school started in August. Next year bags will be given to students as they register for Kindergarten, beginning in February.

Ideas for next year, in addition to beginning earlier, included: adding a VWC brochure and a brochure about environmental issues written for kindergartners and affixing a label in the book which indicates that it is a gift of the VWC. Dr. Mihalik indicated that he and Susan are interested in continuing to support this project next year. Dusty expects shipping costs will be lower next year.

Donna explained and demonstrated the "Read to Me Kit" which was described in the last VWC newsletter. These kits are available through the library system and information about them is included in the bags we distributed to kindergartners.

**Announcements.** Ann Turner, head of the Santa Cruz County Library System, is retiring at the end of the year. Felton Library Friends' Fiesta is happening on September 13. Tickets are available for purchase for the benefit drawing. The VWC received an unsolicited grant from Independent Charities of America in the amount of \$200.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Ziel, Coresponding Secretary