

## **Environmental Fall Festival Planning Meeting**

### **Minutes of the January 18, Meeting**

Present were Diane Ryder, Jane Harper, Joan Dupuy, Joe Horton, Catherine Colby, Jim Webster, Darrington Craine, Carolyn Longphre, Rob Richie, Paige Taylor, Anne Hagood, Jode Estes, Alison Huffmann, Linda Collins, Karen Stone, Clyde and Barbara Womack.

Barbara opened the meeting thanking everyone for being there saying that they were crucial to the success of the event. She then asked for suggestions for a title for the event. "Rock the Ridge" was chosen. Catherine offered the accompanying slogan "Celebrate the wild around\_us." The festival duration will be from 10-4 on Saturday, September 16 2023.

Barbara said that she envisioned an event where people stayed and participated in the activities offered, ate and engaged in conversation with others. She offered the WRCL Christmas event as a good example of this. Examples of activities were speakers, children's activities, wildlife rehabilitators and Wings to Soar. Diane suggested that three speakers be scheduled. Jim suggested that the Home Grown Nation Park be included. Diane said that WaterWays and Reflection Riding present programs.

Barbara suggested that an example of a rain garden be built on the WRCL premises. Catherine and Karen agreed that it was needed but building one prior to the event wasn't possible.

Diane suggested a children's event that included children planting a garden with native plants donated by the vendors. Karen said that there was a raised bed perfect for that.

Karen advised Barbara to speak to Wayside Presbyterian Church to ensure that the festival did not conflict with any of their activities since WRCL uses their parking area. She also advised Barbara to speak with the Walden admin to acquire a beer permit with a fee of \$100.

Barbara requested those present to explore musicians to perform at the festival.

Diane said that acquiring sponsors to help defray the cost of the festival was necessary. She suggested a range of sponsorships from \$50 - \$150 with signage acknowledging the sponsors. Diane said a pamphlet describing the event is needed to acquire sponsors, and flier is needed to advertise the festival. Karen said that she could do both for a materials fee of \$300. She would waive her design fee. Diane suggested Pruetts, Signal Mountain Nursery and Ace as sponsors. Alison suggested Wild Ones.

Karen suggested a barbecue truck and a beer truck be contacted to schedule their participation.

Barbara distributed a list of native plant vendors with their contact information and a list of environmentally focused organization to be contacted to elicit their participation.

The next organizational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15 at 5:30.