

## Simpler Living Committee Meeting Notes: 9/17/09

In attendance: Jeff Sand, Gary Arps, Grace van Thillo, Phil Petrie, Carolyn Lief, Robert Hathaway, Cassie Lewis, Barry Reeves.

1. Opening Prayer offered by Carolyn Lief
2. Introductions: Jeff Sand [and each member of the committee gave some info on themselves]
3. Key info/resources sharing
  - Carolyn shared an internet article entitled “The Problem with ‘Eat Local’”—an interview with author James McWilliams: <http://www.forbes.com/2009/08/31/agriculture-food-james-mcwilliams-business-logistics.html>
  - Gary asked if we will add links to resources to our web page—tabled till later in meeting.
  - Gary shared info about an urban farm in Pasadena: he had called them and determined that they don't do individual tours but they do do group tours and have a webpage: <http://www.pathtofreedom.com/>
  - Cassie shared info about a credit card which is not contributing to big corporate interests—“Salmon Nation” gives a portion of its profits to habitat restoration: <http://www.salmonnation.com/>
  - Grace shared the leader's and participant's versions of the guides “One: God, Family, Earth: Responding to the gifts of God's Creation”
  - Gary asked if we will maintain a repository for things we wish to share with the community—Phil brought up the pros and cons of using the Cathedral Library; This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
  - Barry shared his concern regarding the “Trans-Oceanic Highway” and asked if we might connect to some activism on this issue—Phil suggested this might be a possible future project; item tabled for discussion in future meetings.
4. Announcements:
  - 4.1. Phil reported on mtg with Canon Allisyn: we should expect to do 1 forum per year, with the possibility of a 2<sup>nd</sup> if necessary; the dates and frequency will be considered on an “as needed” basis; Allisyn also advised Phil on issues regarding the Alternative Transportation Forum; She also suggested the greening of homes as a project for us to consider.
  - 4.2. Update on ecobags: the Cathedral won't cover the difference for a rollback of their price to \$5, but we could consider supporting this out of our own pockets; the need for new bags at a cheaper price point was discussed.
  - 4.3. Other announcements: there will be an educational event focused on landscaping the Cathedral on October 31<sup>st</sup>; more info available in the Cathedral announcements. Also, it was noted that the Cathedral is beginning to employ reusable carafes rather than water bottles.
5. Items:
  - 5.1. Procedural idea to streamline meetings: SL Committee discusses key matters but other issues are simply reported on. Phil noted that this was not to limit dialogue--any issue could be raised or added to the agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously.
  - 5.2. Update on Alternative Transportation Sunday/Forum Sunday, 10/18/09
    - 5.2.1. Phil and Jon to meet on 9/23 to review an outline of the Forum
    - 5.2.2. Could someone facilitate the discussion section on question: “What keeps you from traveling more sustainably?”? (approx. 15 minutes) ; Gary asked regarding a time for community involvement during the Forum—it was determined that Gary and Grace would host this part of the Forum.

- 5.2.3. Need to staff SL table at coffee hours—9/27, 10/4, 10/11: Sign-up sheet passed around to committee members; Discussed the need for more planning to facilitate car-pooling. One idea was to ask for those who sign up to volunteer to act as “point person” for their area.
- 5.3. SL Committee positions:
  - 5.3.1. Cassie and Convener position: Cassie is reconsidering her availability to take on the position of Convener at the end of Phil’s term in February/March—she asked if anyone would consider taking Associate Convener position now to prepare to take Convener position then. This item will be considered further at our next meeting.
  - 5.3.2. New position—Network Coordinator Name?—Robert suggested “Networking Coordinator”; Duties?—connecting with those outside of our parish, including individuals, groups, organizations and other parishes. Also, receiving and vetting information and input from outside. [It was noted that our parish is leading in our diocese and that the Cathedral will and should become a nexus of communication for simpler living issues within the diocese]
  - 5.3.3. Gary has stepped forward.
  - 5.3.4. Vote on position and Gary—both approved unanimously.
- 5.4. Produce swap—should we give produce to St. Albans for Burmese refugees? Since the amount of produce is so small and the distance to St. Albans so far, it was decided to donate to local food banks or to offer the produce to those who attend the 1pm Holy Eucharist in Spanish who might be in need.
- 5.5. Items for e-newsletter: Alt Trans Forum; Walking4Water event; 350.org day; Sally Bingham/ Interfaith Power & Light letter writing campaign—volunteers requested and received to author each of the above items.
- 5.6. Reports on Michael Schut postcard campaign: the campaign requests individuals to send a pre-made postcard to President Obama asking him to attend the Climate Conference in Copenhagen. The committee would obtain the postcards and make them available for parishioners to sign and mail at coffee hour. Catherine Thiemann’s suggestion to do just one letter on SPC letterhead was discussed, but the committee decided its impact would be vastly reduced. 350 cards were suggested as a goal in connection with the 350.org Action Day. It was decided to pursue this—Grace will take the lead on organizing it; the logistics and table setup were discussed; Grace volunteered to write a paragraph on this campaign as well.
- 5.7. Communications issues (cont.)
  - 5.7.1. Robert’s update continued if necessary—no time for this item.
- 5.8. Walking4Water, 10/4/09—anybody walking?—no time for this item.
- 5.9. Future projects:
  - 5.9.1. Cassie—non-commercial Christmas: aka “countering consumerism”, a brainstorming session open to volunteers from the Cathedral community was proposed, also the need for a leader to facilitate the session and for announcements to be made.
  - 5.9.2. Gary—SL group potluck to motivate project groups—no time for this item.
  - 5.9.3. Gary—Trip to Cuyamaca—no time for this item.
  - 5.9.4. Keep congregation informed on Copenhagen—no time for this item.
  - 5.9.5. Other

Note: Discussion of future projects will be given at least half of the next meeting.

6. Next meeting—10/8/09 7:00pm in the Guild Room
7. Concluding prayer