

# **U.S. GRAIL REPORT TO GRAIL NATIONAL COUNCIL**

**Date: 6/5/2019**

**Report Compiled by: \_\_ Terrie Puckett**

## **UPDATES: The Grail**

- Several outreach opportunities through our participation with Festival of Faiths but having a hard time finding member support.
- 1500 people will be at Grailville on June 15<sup>th</sup> for the Amazing Charity Race (we are start and stop line) so we will have a major presence with info table and our SYAWI folks being helpful ambassadors. The Grail in the US is an official sponsor organization (b/c we are the location) so our logo will be on the racer shirts, website and Facebook for Amazing Charity Race.
- We have purchased The Grail in the US tshirts for the SYAWI folks and staff to wear when working with volunteer groups or at outreach events. We have ordered a few extra so that should we get members to assist at outreach they too will have one to wear (borrow). If this works well we can order more. If individual Grail members would like one we could do an order form and put it in the news. The more we order the cheaper the cost per shirt.
- A "request for contributions" is in Friday's news. This is the next step in reaching out to folks beyond Cincinnati and NYC...which has been an ongoing effort for a couple years now.
- Have begun the 2020 budget process, with the goal of presenting to Council in August.
- Auditors will be in house the week of June 10<sup>th</sup>. This is the every-three year full audit.
- At the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Community Partners Breakfast they announced a national push in 2020 around the SDGs...YAY! Which ups are ability to partner on many fronts.
- Kroger rolled out its Zero Hunger campaign in all stores in support of SDG#2 Zero Hunger. Deborah suggested we try to work with them, b/c we noted that their staff does not all realize the connection to the SDGs. I have read through their corporate plan and have identified the appropriate contact I think and plan to reach out to them for a possible partnership.
- Hired Cindy Fletcher based in Washington DC as new meetings coordinator. She is a 1099 contractor instead of staff. She has extensive experience in business travel and conference logistics and will be a great asset. Recognizing that Loveland demographics are 94% white we purposefully structured this as a remote position. Cindy and I talk by phone each Tuesday and she submits detailed timesheets through Toggl each week. She has been "introduced" to the Anti-racism Task Force and the YWI.
- Final stages of the website re-do (thank goodness).

## **UPDATES: Cornwall**

- Will be working from CW June 18-23
- Spoke with CW lawyer and having different resident agreements is fine (meaning GAIA can stay longer and not put us in a legal quandary with Cottage resident)
- We will have the CW lawyer review a "preparation for August 31<sup>st</sup>" letter to Kathi outlining the last few months and expectations

- Sharon, Simonetta and Lucy are working on a list of neighbors that I will visit with in June to allay fears and concerns about CW future.
- New property management company in place on a 3 month “trial” contract. Rough accounting shows that the cost of paying Kathi and maintaining cottage is comparable to the fees associated with this contract.
- During my May QUICK visit noted that there are several inspections that were due so have arranged for them to be done or they have already been done.
- Unlike GV, CW will not be able to shut off utilities completely. We will of course reduce them as buildings are unoccupied. Kelly continues to sort out the accounts.

### **UPDATES: Grailville**

- FYI—the most recent monthly electric/gas bill for GV was \$610. Yes, Kelly and I DID do a happy dance.
- Summer Young Adult Work Initiative is in full swing (front loading at the beginning since I know folks will dwindle away at end of season). So far they have worked: with volunteer groups, on art inventory, filing, weeding, transplanting, clearing trails, developing social media around SDGs, sorting tools in the barns/sheds, and clearing out the old laundry facility. Each Tuesday I assign 3 to work with Mary Lu and our volunteer from the county. Since this is a pilot project we are assessing and tweaking as we go. Should we decide to do this in 2020 we will have working processes in place.
  - Where we advertised:
    - Clark Montessori High School Black Student Union
    - St. Xavier High School Diversity Coordinator’s office (she shared the info to other Diversity Coordinators at area schools)
    - McNicholas High School
    - Great Oaks Vocational School (all campuses)
    - Loveland High School Environment Club
    - Miami University (a marketing class we did a project with)
    - People we knew already including trail walkers
  - Demographics:
    - 15 in rotation with 4 others who have asked about taking part
    - 12 women, 3 men
    - 9 in college (or starting in the fall), 1 recent college graduate, and 5 still in school
    - 2 POC
  - Challenge:
    - Location and no public transportation
- Birds at GV
  - The neighbor finished the Bio Bird Blitz, but used work by an artist of renown, so I have begun communications with the artist on permission to use the illustrations. If the answer is no, or cost too high, we will have to re-do the cards. NOTE they are simply in a word doc now. So no costs have been incurred.

- Long-time volunteer Audrey Wietmarschen is starting a new project for us stemming from her One Acre Woods Learning Lab. She will be doing bird workshops on Tuesdays from 2-3—all welcome—re-habbing the birdhouses (starting with the ones from the south side trail) and placing them along the north side trails. I would LOVE to have one session at Twin Towers since the ladies there aren't always able to get out here. On Tuesdays they will also test out the draft bird bio blitz sheets.

**DECISIONS NEEDED:**

1. OK to move budget prep to August
2. Approval to explore repatriation of art