

REVISIONING CORNWALL AS A RESIDENTIAL GRAIL CENTER
CARRYING OUT GRAIL MISSION IN A FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE WAY
Text of Viana Muller's Remarks Made at Council Meeting Jan 23, 2023

The request for increased agency for U.S. Grail members in the decision-making process made by the U.S. Grail, both to protect our financial legacy and equally our mission legacy, is one which is not being made alone by our Sustainable Communities Affinity Group. It is also being made by the Revisioning Group, comprised of approximately 30 women, which met twice a month for 18 months to come to a consensus on governance—the way we make decisions. This is a key issue that has put our beloved community in crisis. We must empower our own membership to take on both responsibility and authority in creating how we go forward together.

Grail members diverse in their perspectives on many issues and with very different backgrounds and life experience, have spoken in unison on this issue of empowerment of members—women which include Sally Timmell, Carol Barton, Beth Murphy, Sharon Thompson, and Judy Alves, among many others.

Our history in seeking to restore the Cornwall Center as a vehicle for Grail mission has been a bit bumpy. Mistakes were made on both sides and lessons have been learned on both sides. We in the Sustainable Communities Affinity Group have spent the last two and a half years since the Cornwall Center was rented out mastering budgets, researching the local real estate market, and becoming knowledgeable about Air BNB rental rules and Procedures. We have also used this pandemic time to begin to embrace an indigenous point of view. We've planned a tiered roll-out of programs suitable for first year, second year and third year of reinhabiting Cornwall, not biting off more than we can chew. And we've been busy implementing in a limited way Grail mission outdoors at Cornwall, planning and planting and harvesting an organic garden, with new women who have had no previous contact with the Grail—participating. At Terrie Puckett's suggestion we also submitted Grail projects to receive some funding for 2023.

Sustainable Communities is excited and ready to take on the responsibilities of inhabiting and managing the Cornwall Center in a new paradigm that we hope will revitalize the mission of the entire U.S. Grail in this unprecedented time of social, economic and climate crisis. We have no doubts about the financial viability of our plan. And we have already received very positive feedback from U.S. Grail members on our proposal in the first Forum on the future of Cornwall. We are willing to devote our time and expertise to bring the Grail mission to fruition in this new elbow of time, to support the leadership of women--young, of color and others, of all economic levels and our future daughters-- in an intergenerational earth-centered community, emerging from a grassroots approach in a financially responsible way.

Our plea to you, dear Council members, is to welcome our agency and inclusion in planning this future, leveraging the rich assets of our membership's experience and commitment, as well as the rich assets of the land and buildings we must steward into the future.

