U.S. GRAIL REPORT TO GRAIL NATIONAL COUNCIL

Date: 5/11/2023 Report Compiled by: Terrie Puckett

UPDATES: The Grail

- Financials—March is in the packet. As noted at April meeting, the bottom line is that The Grail is about $21k better than budget at the end of the 1st quarter. We are also seeing an upturn in the market values of our portfolios which we are hoping continues as a trend.
- External Communications—Brought in Arlene Johnston as communications contractor for 2 months (10 hours a week for 8 weeks) to develop an external communication plan for The Grail. This year will focus on 1. Increasing paid rentals, 2. Increasing non-member donations, and 3. Increasing non-member volunteer pool. Her first step is data collection so she will be shaping the message used by Greeters and setting up focus groups to better understand what folks know about The Grail and what they do not. I will be sharing more about the campaign at June meeting.
- Member Essays—of about 35 members who returned the "Thread I am Weaving" form in 2022, about a dozen indicated efforts within their community as expressions of their Grail work. We have asked those members to write short essays which will be shared in NGNs and or Gumbos (depending on the length) over the next few months. We have received replies from several in that group affirming they will provide something. We hope this inspires other members to contribute as well.

UPDATES: Cornwall

- RMM lease—the office has collected the input from many members over the last few weeks on how to look at the lease. In addition, the ED has met with RMM to have formal conversations about what they like about the lease, where they feel we need clarification, and what they would like to see altered. From this feedback, there are 3 areas of clarification/alteration both sides agree upon:
    1. Which entity is responsible for what maintenance? The current lease attempted to make this area very clear, but we learned over 3 years is that there is still grey area. We will be working to better clarify this section
    2. What happens if at some point the Grail decides to sell the property? This is not advocating for a sale, but is a standard section of leases that protects the owner. Basically it sets up that should The Grail decide to sell, the lease ends with our ownership and does not continue with new owners. In Grail leases we also note that current renter has Right of First Refusal. So we will be clarifying what that means—does it mean the Grail has to accept any offer that is made (no)? What happens to protect any investments RMM has made to the structures?
    3. Can there be greater accessibility by Grail members? The current lease was very limited (care of Memorial Garden once a month), and over time RMM granted Grail members greater access AFTER—it must be noted--Grail members broke the terms of the lease and worked on vegetable garden and labyrinth without permission. We want to make sure this section is clear so that our relationship is not fraught with avoidable tensions. RMM has agreed to greater access and we are discussing a few different options that will—as an end result—enable Grail access of memorial garden, vegetable garden, and labyrinth more than once a month AND for Grail members to be able to host weekend/week-long programs/retreats onsite. This level of accessibility takes into account ALL the input by members about what they would like to see happen.

I have sent my notes and original lease to our legal counsel to review and to draft a new lease. That new lease will be ready by June 1st at which time RMM will receive it and Grail Council will receive it. Legal and I will take suggestions from both RMM and Grail Council and use those to shape the final lease.

Because I have already had conversation (with email trail) with RMM AND because the draft lease will be given to RMM by June 1st, The Grail will have fulfilled its responsibility to inform RMM of changes by the deadline to do so.

We then will have time to polish the final result before it is signed.

UPDATES: Loveland

- Crew—25 applications received so far. 9 returning/16 new; 14 Clermont County, 8 Hamilton County, 3 Warren County; 14 High School, 11 post-high school; 4 who might qualify for the Easter Seals program. 18+ orientation and first day was May 10th. Additional orientations will occur first week of June for primarily high school students.
- Environmental Sustainability Interns—There are 2 interns this year (1 a 3rd year Crew member the other a new Crew member) who will be working with Mary Lu each week on some of the larger projects like creating the invasive removal plan and expansion of the agroforest. In additional to their time with Mary Lu they will both work as Crew.
- Greeters—no local Grail members have volunteered to be greeters, so Crew will begin taking shifts the week of May 15th.

Decisions Needed: