

FELLOWSHIP FOR INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY
 Board of Directors Semi-Annual Meeting November 4 - 6, 1994
 MICCOSUKEE LAND CO-OP
 Tallahassee, Florida

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Another Continental Celebration?
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Membership Committee Report	?
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Upcoming Board Meetings	
Next Board Meeting Site	
Meeting Site Rotation - 3 or 4 Continental Sectors? .	
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Secretary's Report	
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Product Endorsement Policy	
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Electronic Publishing - The Well/WWW/Internet ..	
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FIC Newsletter	
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Electronic Publishing - Cohousing Link
Administrator's Report
Affinity Telephone Service Commissions
Treasurer's Report

Annual Budget
Administrative Committee Report
Board Retreat Proposal
Session #11: 1:00 PM, Sunday
FIC Newsletter, Small Group Report
Community Clearinghouse, Small Group Report
Another Continental Celebration?
Session #12: 2:45 PM, Sunday
Board Retreat Proposal Confirmed
Task Follow-Up
Consensus Facilitation Guild Update
Electronic Publishing - Well/WWW/Internet & Cohusing.
Session #13: 4:50 PM, Sunday
Thanks to Miccosukee Land Coop, Host Community
Sustainability School Vision
Evaluation
Closing Circle
Task List

COMMITTEE LIST (Refer to Stonehaven minutes for more cmtees.)

Membership Committee: Dan, Harvey, Ella, Elph, Paul?

Editorial Review Board (ERB): Geoph, Laird, Betty

Cmag staff: Managing Editor & ad sales - Diana-CO
Business Manager - Laird/Sandhill Farm-MO,
Distributors - Claire/Alpha-OR & Valerie/Twin Oaks-VA,
Reach ads & photo archives - Patricia Greene/Renaissance-MA,
Promotion/advertising - Laird and Diana
Cover Design - Paul Delapa-CA
Layout/Design Editor - Lance Scott-WA
Graphic Artist - Billie Miracle

Cover Cmte: Paul, Laird, Diana, Patricia, Lance choose cover photos

Business Loan Fund Cmtee: Harvey, Laird, Ella, Dan, Betty.

??Cohousing Liaison COMMITTEE: with Velma. A working group to explore how to best interface FIC with cohousing.

CMTY BUILDING MANUAL CMTEE: Diana (focalizer), Shri, Ira, Gordon, Alex, Loren

Ad hoc Newsletter Committee: Ella, Betty, Dan. Interested in working on Newsletter: Valerie, Chad, Sharon, Jillian and Alex.

Book Tour Committee: SYD (focalizer), Ira, Sharon, Diana will get together this evening and work up a plan, including a budget.

WEBWEAVER CMTEE: Elph, Jillian, Velma, Michael

Job Description of Newsletter Editor: collect articles and information, select and edit, confer with Editorial Review Board, make a production calendar, coordinate layout, send to Sandhill Farm for printing and mailing. Subscription cost: \$10/yr, no cost to paid mbrs.

TASK LIST SORTED BY PERSON - ALL MBRs, ALL CMTEES, ADMIN CMTEE, ALEX, BETTY, CAROLINE, CHAD, DAN, DIANA, ELLA, ELPH, GEOPH, HARVEY, IRA, JENNY, LOREN, VELMA

ALL BOARD MEMBERS - NETWORKING INITIATIVES

TASK: All notify Loren what you'll do for the cmties tour.

ALL CMTEES - ADMINISTRATION

TASK: All cmtes assign focalizers & report names to AC.

ADMIN CMTEE - UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

TASK: AC will decide exact length of pre-mtg & Later Cmtee, & schedule for the FIC workshops desired by Far Away Ranch.

TASK: AC will explore mtg sites beyond next spring, and get more info about site choices than we did for this spring mtg.

ADMINISTRATION

TASK: AC & Geoph will brainstorm E-mail Meta process (done in Session 12 below).

THANKS TO MICCOSUKEE LAND COOP, HOST COMMUNITY

TASK: AC will determine how to thank Miccosukee Land Coop for hosting the FIC bd mtg.

ALEX - PUBLICATIONS

TASK: Alex will work w/ Geoph to finish Dir maps by Dec 15.

BETTY - FINANCES

TASK: Betty or David Reis will go to Bill Poloniak's workshop. Some fraction of workshop fees would be sent to FIC if there was an FIC endorsement. Action plan approved.

TASK: Betty will call Robert Gilman abt details of Affinity phone service commissions, then report to AC for decision.

CAROLINE - NETWORKING INITIATIVES

TASK: Caroline will contact Community Connexions.

CHAD - FINANCES

TASK: Harvey, Chad, and Loren will discuss ways to reduce the conflict between increasing bd mbrship and overloading travel support fund. They will meet & report back to this mtg, or failing that, will report to the AC for review.

ADMINISTRATION

TASK: Chad, with support from Ella and Laird, will go through all eight years of FIC minutes to compile board meeting

agreements into a policy notebook.

DAN - MEMBERSHIP - Dan, Harvey, Ella, Elph, Paul?

TASK: Membership committee will review whether to continue offering newsletter for \$10 for people not joining FIC.

DIANA - PUBLICATIONS

TASK: Diana will solicit the names of photographers living in intentional communities.

TASK: Diana will write a short cover report, About the Cover, in each issue of Cmag.

TASK: Diana will solicit copy for Cmag from Planetary Recovery Network, the Beth Ingber project concerned with environmental issues & using a 12 step format.

TASK: Geoph and Jillian and Diana and all publishers note change of the area code at Langley HQ from 206 to 360.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

TASK: Diana will be advance person for Sunrise & Far Away Ranches; back up is Velma. Results to Betty.

NETWORKING INITIATIVES

TASK: Geoph & Diana will contact Inter-Cmty Connections, Betty & Laird will offer advice.

ELLA - PUBLICATIONS

TASK: Ella will report in the Newsletter on both Fellowship and member community activities.

TASK: Ella will solicit in Newsletter for input from general members on the board retreat.

TASK: Ella will solicit in the Newsletter for information about sustainability schools already in operation.

MEMBERSHIP - Dan, Harvey, Ella, Elph, Paul?

TASK: Membership committee will review whether to continue offering newsletter for \$10 for people not joining FIC.

TASK: Ella offered to coordinate the membership mailings.

ELPH - PUBLICATIONS

TASK: Elph will be on call for Alex in map detailing.

TASK: Elph, Jillian, Velma, Michael will develop the FIC home page according to their best technical judgement, referring to AC when policy issues arise.

ADMINISTRATION

TASK: Elph will find Galadriel font for Laird.

GEOPH - PUBLICATIONS

TASK: Geoph and Jillian and Diana and all publishers note the change of the area code at Langley HQ from 206 to 360.

ADMINISTRATION

TASK: Geoph will write up job description for E-mail Meta

for next board meeting. Feedback/prompt style will be monitored by committee conveners.

TASK: AC & Geoph will brainstorm E-mail Meta process (done in Session 12 below).

HARVEY - FINANCES

TASK: Harvey, Chad, and Loren will discuss ways to reduce the conflict between increasing bd mbrship and overloading travel support fund. They will meet & report back to this mtg, or failing that, will report to the AC for review.

MEMBERSHIP - Dan, Harvey, Ella, Elph, Paul?

TASK: Membership committee will review whether to continue offering newsletter for \$10 for people not joining FIC.

TASK: Harvey will coordinate the wording of the Bylaws revisions, dropping annual genl mbrship mtg for requirement that invitations be sent to all genl mbrs within 1 day road travel of each bd mtg.

ADMINISTRATION

TASK: Harvey will get all minutes on disk and get to Chad.

TASK: Harvey will coordinate the wording of the Bylaws revisions, changing name from Alternate to Associate Bd Mbr.

IRA - MEMBERSHIP

TASK: Ira offered to coordinate mbrship mailings from TO.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

TASK: Ira willing to act as FIC agent to explore having Los Horcones host a future Bd mtg in Baja California, Mexico.

NETWORKING INITIATIVES

TASK: Ira wants to help regional events happen, and has considerable experience in organizing them. Tom, Sharon, Caroline, Moonglow are willing to help.

JENNY - ADMINISTRATION

TASK: Jenny is task meta for E-mail monitoring until 4-5-95, and then Geoph. This means update and re-post task list regularly.

LOREN - FINANCES

TASK: Harvey, Chad, and Loren will discuss ways to reduce the conflict between increasing bd mbrship and overloading travel support fund. They will meet & report back to this mtg, or failing that, will report to the AC for review.

NETWORKING INITIATIVES

TASK: Loren is contact person for communities tour project.

VELMA - NETWORKING INITIATIVES

TASK: Velma will organize a continental event, maybe in 2yrs

TASK LIST SORTED BY FUNCTION- PUBLICATIONS, FINANCES, MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS, ADMINISTRATION, NETWORKING, THANKS TO MICCOSUKEE

PUBLICATIONS

Alex

TASK: Alex will work w/ Geoph to finish Dir maps by Dec 15.

Diana

TASK: Diana will solicit the names of photographers living in intentional communities.

TASK: Diana will write a short cover report, About the Cover, in each issue of Cmag.

TASK: Diana will solicit copy for Cmag from Planetary Recovery Network, the Beth Ingber project which addresses concerns around environmental issues using a 12 step format.

TASK: Geoph and Jillian and Diana and all publishers note the change of the area code at Langley HQ from 206 to 360.

Ella

TASK: Ella will report in the Newsletter on both Fellowship and member community activities.

TASK: Ella will solicit in Newsletter for input from general members on the board retreat.

TASK: Ella will solicit in the Newsletter for information about sustainability schools already in operation.

Elph

TASK: Elph will be on call for Alex in map detailing.

TASK: Elph, Jillian, Velma, Michael will develop the FIC home page according to their best technical judgement, referring to the AC when policy issues arise.

Geoph

TASK: Geoph and Jillian and Diana and all publishers note the change of the area code at Langley HQ from 206 to 360.

FINANCES

Betty

TASK: Betty or David Reis will go to Bill Poloniak's workshop. Some fraction of workshop fees would be sent to FIC if there was an FIC endorsement. Action plan approved.

TASK: Betty will call Robert Gilman abt details of Affinity phone service commissions, then report to AC for decision.

Harvey

TASK: Harvey, Chad, & Loren will discuss ways to reduce the conflict betwn increasing bd mbrship & overloading travel support fund. They will report back to this mtg, if possible. Failing that, report will go to the AC for review.

MEMBERSHIP - Dan, Harvey, Ella, Elph, Paul?

TASK: Membership cmtee will review whether to continue offering newsletter for \$10 for people not joining FIC.

Ella

TASK: Ella offered to coordinate the membership mailings.

IRA

TASK: Ira offered to coordinate mbrship mailings from TO.

Harvey

TASK: Harvey will coordinate wording of Bylaws revisions to delete annual genl mbrship mtg & mandate current process of inviting all genl mbrs to each bd mtg within 1 day road travel of their homes.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Admin Cmte

TASK: AC will decide exact length of pre-mtg & Later Cmtee, & schedule for the FIC workshops desired by Far Away Ranch.

TASK: AC will explore mtg sites beyond next spring, and get more info abt site choices than we did for this spring mtg.

Diana

TASK: Diana will make advance mtg arrangements w/ Sunrise & Far Away Ranches; back up is Velma. Results to Betty.

Ira

TASK: Ira willing to act as FIC agent to explore having Los Horcones host a future Bd mtg in Baja California, Mexico.

ADMINISTRATION

All Cmtees

TASK: All cmtees assign focalizers & report names to AC.

Chad

TASK: Chad, with support from Ella and Laird, will go through all eight years of FIC minutes to compile board meeting agreements into a policy notebook.

Elph

TASK: Elph will find Galadriel font for Laird.

Geoph

TASK: Geoph will write up job description for E-mail Meta for next board meeting. Feedback/prompt style will be monitored by committee conveners.

TASK: AC & Geoph will brainstorm procedure for E-mail Meta.

Harvey

TASK: Harvey will get all minutes on disk and get to Chad.

TASK: Harvey will coordinate wording of Bylaws revisions to change name from Alternate to Associate Bd Mbr.

Jenny

TASK: Jenny is task meta for E-mail monitoring til 4-5-95, & then Geoph. She will update & re-post task list regularly.

NETWORKING INITIATIVES

All Mbrs

TASK: All notify Loren what you'll do for the cmties tour.

Loren

TASK: Loren is contact person for communities tour project.

Caroline

TASK: Caroline will contact Community Connexions.

Diana

TASK: Geoph & Diana will contact Inter-Cnty Connections, Betty and Laird will offer advice.

Velma

TASK: Velma will organize a continental event, maybe in 2yrs

Ira

TASK: Ira wants to help regional events happen, and has considerable experience in organizing them. Tom, Sharon, Caroline, Moonglow are willing to help.

THANKS TO MICCOSUKEE LAND COOP, HOST COMMUNITY

Admin Cmtee

TASK: AC will determine how to thank Miccosukee Land Coop for hosting the FIC bd mtg.

PROPOSALS NOT RESOLVED -

PUBLICATIONS

Offer cohousing groups links to FIC home page (see Freezer list).
Discuss bill of rights for communitarians at bd retreat.
Increase Diana's salary from distribution income ASAP.

**AGREEMENTS LIST - PUBLICATIONS, FINANCES, LOAN FUND, MEMBERSHIP,
UPCOMING MEETINGS, ADMINISTRATION, NETWORKING INITIATIVES**

PUBLICATIONS

AGREED: The board agreed with the recommendation to merge Growing Community Newsletter into Cmag.

AGREED: Discuss Zablocki's Communitarian bill of rights in board meeting and with Zablocki, stressing the importance of this issue and the need for in depth development. The board will discuss a communitarian bill of rights during the retreat, after notifying membership via newsletter before the retreat.

AGREED: The community building manual is an important if not essential product which the FIC should produce.

AGREED: FIC accepts the WELL's offer of no cost space for a Fellowship Home Page accessible to World Wide Web and the Internet.

AGREED: AC will consider establishing a per issue honorarium for the newsletter editor.

AGREED: Ella will be the Newsletter Editor, with all copy being reviewed by the Editorial Review Board already in place for Cmag and other FIC publications.

FINANCES

AGREED: FIC staff (administrator, secretary, Cmag managing editor) travel expenses to the board meetings will be completely reimbursed.

????AGREED: The Fellowship does not give permission for the FIC name to be put on any products and services which are contrary to our mission. Unless FIC formally endorses a product or service, a disclaimer will be included in any ads published in Cmag which mention the Fellowship.

AGREED: AC has approval to pursue Affinity phone service commissions pending Betty's research with Robert Gilman.

AGREED: Betty has the option to receive some of the budgeted assistant's pay if she does the assistant's work. That is, some of the assistant's pay can be used to supplement the administrator's salary when the administrator works over 1/2 time. Such transfers will be reviewed by the AC.

AGREED: The Budget was approved as presented.

LOAN FUND

AGREED: AC will approve the final Business Loan application

forms & procedure designed by Loan Fund cmtee before forms are used

MEMBERSHIP

AGREED: That the Bylaws be revised to delete the "annual general membership meeting" and to insert a requirement that general members be mailed invitations to those regular board meetings held within one day of road travel from their homes.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

AGREED: The Board of the Fellowship will meet for a retreat between the Fall '94 and Spring '95 Board meetings.

AGREED: A 3 day board retreat will be planned. AC will contract an outside facilitator after considering budget and style of facilitation needed. Participation at this retreat will include technical staff, conference staff, and intimate partners. AC will monitor the retreat roster.

AGREED: We will meet at Sunrise for pre-meeting June 13-15 and full Bd mtg June 16-18, then move to Far Away Ranch for Later Cmtee June 19-24. (Far Away Ranch mtg moved to Sunrise. See Later Cmtee minutes following this mtg. - editor)

ADMINISTRATON

AGREED: That the Bylaws be revised to rename the title Alternate Board Member to Associate Board Member.

AGREED: Some of the duties of the Secretary may be delegated under the supervision of that officer.

NETWORKING

AGREED: A Community Clearinghouse questionnaire will be included in the mass mailing announcing the publication date of the 1996 COMMUNITIES Directory.

AGREED: The AC is empowered to decide if they are willing to offer our 501c3 as a funding conduit for grant writing for the sustainability school.

FREEZER LIST - PUBLICATIONS, FINANCE, MEMBERSHIP, ADMIN, NETWORKING

PUBLICATIONS

COOLER: Consider how much of publications to put on Internet.

COOLER: Decision about how to cast an offer to cohousing folks for shared Internet space, along with authority for Webweavers cmtee action, will be discussed during the small group session and reported back for board action later in this meeting. **FREEZER:** Policy question: What is FIC's position in relation to networking on the Internet with organizations which have intentional cmties within them (Cohousing, Ecovillages, Fed. of Egalitarian Communities)?

FINANCE

FREEZER: Discuss interim board meeting travel costs before deciding amounts of money to be reimbursed to board members for travel expenses.

FREEZER: Geoph would like to consider how we do open books. This financial information should be communicated more widely.

FREEZER: Develop a pro-active system to evaluate products or services seeking FIC endorsement.

FREEZER: Refer to AC? An evaluation committee should be established to determine the appropriateness for any endorsements, use of FIC name or logo.

MEMBERSHIP

FREEZER: AC will decide who will handle the mbrship renewal/solicitation mailings. Ira will part of that decision.

ADMINISTRATION

FREEZER: Consider criteria for groups allied closely enough to FIC mission purpose to legally use our 501c3 for start up operations. The sustainability school is closely related to our general education objectives. What are the perimeters?

NETWORKING

FREEZER: The Fellowship often receives information well in advance of communities movement events; should travel funds be budgeted for sending FIC speakers to some of these events?

FREEZER: What to do about organizing more gatherings, refer to interim Bd retreat.

Session 1. FRIDAY MORNING, NOV 4, 1994 • 9:00 am

F: Caroline, Facilitator

R: Ella, Recorder

**Opening/Welcome: Rune drawn: Growth.

** Introductions:

12 Board Members Present: Paul DeLapa, Diana Christian, Ella Peregrine, Loren Schein, Elph Morgan, Laird Schaub, Dan Questenberry, Ira Wallace, SYD Fredrickson, Harvey Baker, Caroline Estes, Geoph Kozeny.

1 Board member absent until Sunday: Betty Didcoct.

4 Board members absent: Lois Arkin, Ben Lipman, Chad Fuller, David Reis.

13 Others present: Jenny Upton, Jillian Downey, Alan Murray, Michael, Valerie Renwick, Gordon Sproule, Rose Kelley, Velma Kahn, Alex McGee, Julie, Laurent, Anthony, Tom.

** COMMUNITIES Magazine, Business Report: (Laird, Presenter)

Diana is Managing Editor in charge of content and operations; Laird is Business Manager and on the Editorial Review Board. Previously out-of-print Cmag issues are now available in high quality photocopies for \$5/issue. COMMUNITIES magazines will be indexed by the Twin Oaks indexing collective, at an estimated cost of \$3000.

Progress of magazine: FIC assumed ownership from Community Publications Cooperative over 2 years ago, intending to revive the ailing 20 year old magazine with professional management and expanded news content. The journal is now up and running, coming out quarterly, on time. Cmag staff was all volunteers at first, then Coloradan Diana Christian was hired one year ago as managing editor. ERB is working well with Diana, sometimes there are candid disagreements, but the work is vital, dynamic and productive. Cmag now employs Layout/Design Editor Lance Scott (WA) and Reach Editor/Photo Archivist, Patricia Greene of Renaissance in MA.

Systems are in place to improve distribution and quality. Diana has increased advertising. Paul has done preparatory graphic design work for promotional and marketing materials, which should pay off in more market awareness for the magazine and the Directory both. Full financial analysis of this past production year comes in January, 1995. We'll run a deficit for 1994, but it's stabilized and manageable.

The Editorial Review Board (ERB), has encouraged publishing some articles on community experiences that are not all positive reporting, some describe difficult and heart-rending situations encountered while living and working cooperatively. When developing a "troubled" story, editors ask those who might disagree with, or be hurt by the publication to review draft copy and submit their own experiences and opinions for publication. Our idea is to promote dialogue and build bridges, while not ducking or sensationalizing controversial issues. Current examples of difficult pieces are the two articles critical of the Bruderhof.

Growing Community Newsletter (GCN) was Diana's own publication, focused on communities and community technology in

the western US. She and Dan Draper published this quarterly for two years. Since Diana took on Cmag, it's been challenging to keep up with her editing work for both GCN and Cmag.

Some FIC board members were concerned about potential confusion for Diana in making decisions as to which articles or developing projects should go to which periodical. So, the ERB happily recommends Diana's offer to merge GCN into Cmag. For at least the next year, "Growing Community" would occupy a 4-6 page section in each issue of COMMUNITIES. Cmag would assume all GCN subscription obligations.

AGREED: The board agreed with the recommendation to merge Growing Community Newsletter into Cmag.

** COMMUNITIES Mag, Editors Report (Diana, Presenter)ATTACHMENT
Valerie (Twin Oaks) writes the Federation Update column about FEC communities, Claire (Alpha-OR) and Valerie (Twin Oaks-VA) are the Cmag distributors. Geoph writes the Peripatetic Communitarian column. Guest editor for next issue is Paul Delapa on the topic of "Human Potential in Community." Loren Schein will guest edit the June 95 issue. The theme is "Sex, Love and Romance in Cmty." December 95 guest editor is Deborah Altus; her topic is "Aging in Community." Patricia Greene at Renaissance Cmty in Massachusetts is doing Reach ads and photo archives. Laird writes the Publisher's Note and is point person for general management of the publication. Diana is managing editor, and does ad sales. Laird and Diana work together on promotion and advertising.

Advertising: There are currently 800 subscribers, with 3200 in distributor and newsstand sales. When the Dir comes out, subscriptions of Cmag should go up dramatically. When subscriptions go up, advertisers will get more responses with rates staying the same for a while. Current advertisers have products and services which directly relate to community development -- books, tapes, consultants, cmty homes for sale. Cmag will sell more and larger ads as the readership expands. Direct mail solicitations are planned. Diana will seek reviews from other magazines, and research Cmag demographics for the advertisers.

Ads for Cmag subscriptions will appear in other magazines, like: Back Home, Permaculture Activist, Drylands Permaculture and the Last Straw. Later, New Age and Utne Reader.

Cmag Content: Billie Miracle (Womanshare) has been doing excellent graphics. Guest editors are taking active roles, working with subject matter they love, and drawing in exciting articles. Guest editorship for Sept. 95 is open.

The cover photo for #84, "Growing Up in Community," produced mixed reactions. Some felt that the child on the cover looked neglected and abused; others saw the child looking positive, direct and engaging. Cmag strives to match the cover photo to the issue content. Cover photos need to be vertical format, high contrast, and good composition.

CMAG COVER COMMITTEE: Paul, Laird, Diana, Patricia Green, Lance

are cmtee to choose cover photos.

Cmag Subscription Renewal: A series of up to four letters to ending subscribers will be implemented soon to discourage subscribers from lapsing.

Newsstand Distribution: (Included in Diana's attachment)
We plan a campaign to solicit intentional community subscriptions, maybe offering a discount for the first year. A new Cmag flyer of superior copy and graphic presentation is now available.

"My Turn" Column in Cmag is an open window for people to offer opinions for discussion. Ben Zablocki has created a Bill of Rights for Intentional Communities which he is proposing for this column. Diana is proposing that FIC/ERB suggest a re-framing of this issue. (See later discussion on this topic.)

TASK: Diana will solicit the names of photographers living in intentional communities.

TASK: Diana will write a short cover report, About the Cover, in each issue of Cmag.

Session 2. FRIDAY • NOV 4, 1994 • 10:45 am F: [Shri] R: [Laird]

** Membership Committee Report: (Elph & Paul)

Membership Cmtee has done no work since the Stonehaven meeting. The group will meet here at Miccosukee and design a system for initiating FIC membership renewals and solicitations. Splitting the receiving and recording of memberships between Betty at Langley (WA) and Laird at Sandhill Farm (MO) has been inefficient. These functions will be consolidated at a single site, probably at Langley headquarters.

Partly the membership drive has been held up by the lack of an updated introductory FIC brochure, which is almost completed. Ira offered Twin Oaks as a site where membership renewal letters and solicitations can be sent out in an orderly way. Perhaps this function could reasonably be separated from the coordination and recording functions.

TASK: Ella offered to be the coordinator for the membership mailings.

TASK: Ira will coordinate with mbrship cmtee about doing mbrship mailings from Twin Oaks.

FREEZER: The final decision on who will handle the mbrship renewal/solicitation mailings will be made by AC. Ira will part of those discussions.

** Intentional Community Business Loan Fund: (Ella)

Business Loan Fund Cmtee: Harvey, Laird, Ella, Dan, Betty.
A committee was established to confirm details of the loan application form, procedures for processing an application, considerations for evaluating an application, and the breadth of related financial management assistance the Fellowship might offer to borrowers. The cmtee seeks more people for loan review and management, and hopes to expand into supporting land financing when funds permit.

Many thriving cmtly businesses have benefitted substantially from

the Fellowship Loan Fund since 1954, under the Fund's previous names
-- The Homer Morris Fund, then Community Education

Service Council, Inc. (CESCI). As CESCI ran it in the past, loan amounts loaned were relatively small -- \$3,000 cap for initial loans and \$5,000 for established clients. FIC loans are available not only to businesses in income-sharing cmties; Fund assets are also available to other cooperative businesses that provide jobs for people living in intentional communities. The Loan Fund cmtee may analyze the wider effect of each loan on related communities and the wider movement when determining loan priorities.

AGREED: AC has authority to approve the final Business Loan application forms and procedures developed by the Loan Fund cmtee before the forms are used.

****** Upcoming Board Meeting Sites: (Geoph)

To everyone's delight, Geoph presented one of his creative, multi-color charts, depicting the past sites of FIC Bd meetings. Candidates for the spring '95 site are Church of the Golden Rule in northern California; Glen Ivy, the Emissary cmtty near San Diego; Monan's Rill outside Santa Rosa; and Far Valley Ranch, near Telluride, Colorado. We cannot get a firm offer from Glen Ivy in time for this next mtg. Timeweave was mentioned, but they do not seem ready at this time.

Diana reported that Sunrise Ranch has the facilities, yet their rock-bottom prices are \$20/night, including food -- steep for us. Sunrise rates are unlikely to be negotiable downward, given their current cash flow crunch. Even so, Sunrise will be consulted by phone; there are increasing personal ties with FIC members there. Interest in Fellowship work is growing at Sunrise Ranch.

Geoph reported that the San Francisco Zen Center is the only site he thinks of in the Bay Area with the facilities adequate to host the Fellowship. The Zen Center hasn't been approached yet. Then Monan's Rill was suggested; some are in touch with Bob & Marie Schutz there.

Diana suggested Far Valley Ranch -- a forming cmtty interested in visits and technical assistance from experienced communitarians. The group is establishing a retreat/workshop center with an emphasis on sustainability. Far Valley'd like to trade room and board for workshops and advice. The site is five hours from Denver, yet it should be relatively easy to coordinate rides, given the strong presence of new energy in the Rocky Mountain CoHousing Association.

June 95 Fellowship meeting dates have been proposed to accommodate travel plans of AC members. Caroline and Jim Estes will be in Europe and at the International Communal Studies Conference in Israel from mid-April through May. An interim Bd retreat and AC mtg is proposed in early April. June dates work well for people with children in school. Concern was raised that seven months between full Board meetings is a long stretch, given all the different projects going on.

Not only is intentional community enthusiasm rising in Colorado, there is considerable cmtty interest in California and FIC has never been closer than Lama in New Mexico or Lost Valley in Oregon.

Could we juggle the rotation to match this current interest in the West? It's agreed we are flexible, though there is caution about jumping around and delaying visits to areas missed by changing the rotation.

COOLER: Are non-Board members invited to participate in the Board retreat? This will be taken up when the AC report comes up Sunday morning.

****** Next Board Meeting Site: (Geoph)

Candidates include Monan's Rill, Golden Rule, Glen Ivy, Far Away Ranch, Sunrise Ranch. Some Board members expressed concern that Glen Ivy in June might be too hot for comfort. We agreed to explore Colorado options first.

COOLER: Diana will contact Far Valley Ranch and Sunrise Ranch about possible dates and costs for hosting bd mtg.

COOLER: Geoph will contact Golden Rule and Monan's Rill about possible dates and costs for hosting bd mtg.

****** Meeting Site Rotation - 3 or 4 Continental Sectors?

In the past, meeting site rotation has divided North America into three sections -- East Coast, Midwest, and the West Coast including Rockies. The latter division is perhaps too large for one section. Maybe we should think in terms of the West Coast separate from the Rocky Mountains? Dividing the continent roughly by the four time zones. The 3 sectors of the past conform to the wider population distribution, but the geographic distribution of cmties in contact with FIC is changing. A number of movement-oriented Rocky Mountain communities are forming, and some of the Sixties groups founded in the Rockies are still around and willing to communicate -- though often cautious about the public engagement familiar to FIC.

Sunrise Ranch conference manager is very enthusiastic about hosting us. Usual charge is \$25/person/night for room, based on double occupancy. There is a charge for mtg room space on top of this. Special offer for us: food and camping is \$16/person/day. There will be no charge for use of the meeting room, a small kitchen, or the bunkhouse, if construction is completed in time. Sunrise Ranch is more accessible than Far Valley. Sunrise is about one hour from the Denver airport; it's 4-5 hours to Telluride. Far Away Ranch is at 9,000+ ft while Sunrise Ranch is at 5,000+ ft.

Far Away Ranch would cost \$10/night, housing, not camping, with food possibly extra. And, a great outdoor bluegrass music festival in Telluride during the weekend of June 15-18.

Albert Bates offered to host us at The Farm TN.

AGREED: We will meet at Sunrise for pre-meeting June 13-15 and full Bd mtg June 16-18, then move to Far Away Ranch for Later Cmtee June 19-24.

TASK: AC will decide exact length of pre-mtg and length of Later Cmtee, for purposes of including the FIC workshops desired by Far Away Ranch.

TASK: Diana will be the point person in making firm arrangements

with both cmties, backed up by Velma. The results of her work will be communicated to Betty.

TASK: AC will explore future sites beyond next spring, and have better information about those choices than we did for the spring mtg this time.

TASK: Ira willing to act as FIC agent to explore having Los Horcones host a future Bd mtg in Baja California, Mexico.

** Proposed Bylaws Revisions: (Harvey) ATTACHMENT

There was frustration at the last mtg when alternate slots were limited to six and there were more candidates than positions. The Bd wants more flexibility to involve new people and add more board members. The proposal to increase the number of board members was linked to making compensating adjustments in the travel reimbursement policy, which will be discussed later. Concerns were expressed that too many alternates would be added, over burdening the travel support fund.

TASK: Harvey, Chad, and Loren will discuss ways to reduce the conflict between increasing bd mbrship and overloading travel support fund. They will meet and report back to this mtg, if possible. Failing that, report will be submitted to the AC for review.

PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISION: That "Associate Board Member" replace "Alternate."

Discussion: "Alternate Board Member" recalls the Bylaws provision for substituting Alternates to fill out a quorum of the FIC Board of Directors. This has never been a decision making issue, given the Fellowship's inclusive nature achieving consensus has not been a problem.

PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISION: That FIC drop the Bylaws requirement for a designated "annual general membership mtg."

General members are notified of FIC board meetings if they live within one day of travel from the meeting site. General members are welcome to participate in FIC operations and during the semi-annual Board meetings. So there is no need for a distinctive "general meeting."

PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISION: That FIC place wording in the Bylaws explicitly inviting nearby general members to each Bd mtg, instead of the deleted Bylaws requirement for general membership mtgs.

To what extent do Bd members have FIC powers that other general members do not? Could general members be more included in the Fellowship operations if more regional events were held, making travel to mtgs, and hence participation, easier?

AGREED: That the Bylaws be revised to rename the title Alternate Board Member to Associate Board Member.

AGREED: That the Bylaws be revised to delete the "annual general membership meeting" and to insert a requirement that general members be mailed invitations to those regular board meetings held within one day of road travel from their home addresses.

AGREED: Some of the duties of the Secretary may be delegated under the supervision of that officer.

** COMMUNITIES Directory, Business Report: (Laird)

Completion of the Directory is behind schedule, but we are close to done. Geoph's layout will be the most difficult part left. We should have everything to the printer by Christmas. 450 people have already pre-paid, thinking they would have the new Directory a year ago. Now, March is the target release date. The Directory maps still need a week of work. Laird asked for layout assistance with this task.

TASK: Alex will work with Geoph to complete the maps in the Directory between Dec.1 and Dec.15.

TASK: Elph will be on call for Alex in map detailing.

The target is 500 North American listings -- many more than the 350 in the previous Dir in 1990/91. Bringing in that many intentional community listings has been challenging!

Claire is leaving Alpha Farm, so somebody else will need to sort out Cmag west coast distribution, hopefully at Alpha.

The new edition will be titled COMMUNITIES DIRECTORY for easier location in alphabetical listings. New Dir cost will remain at \$16 for individuals. Institutional price will be \$25.

The editors for this Directory (Dan, Jenny, Laird, Geoph) do not plan to be substantially involved in the next edition. So it's time to start thinking about creating the next Dir team.

A Sandhill Farm visitor offered to write a computer program for searching Directory information electronically, in both IBM and Macintosh formats.

Significant income flow from the new Dir will not show up until next fall. There is almost \$10,000 in the publishing account now, added loans will be needed to pay for first printing and some of the labor.

Directory Response to Community Visitor Feedback: FIC does not generally edit the listings that each community volunteers to the Directory, accepting each group's effort to self-define themselves (except in those cases where Dir staff might have conflicting personal knowledge). After reading a listing, then visiting the community, visitors may perceive significant discrepancies between the community described in the Dir listing and the community in the visitor's reality.

In some cases, communities may seem misleading in how they represent their cooperative life. Visits to such communities can be frustrating to seekers looking for cooperative lifestyle options. FIC wants to hear about seekers experiences, both happy and frustrating, and help people get their stories publicized in Fellowship publications.

A feed-back questionnaire could be published in the Newsletter, like the one in the back of the new Directory. A companion article could include a word glossary describing common intentional community terminology, and a "Seekers Check-List" for people visiting communities in search of compatible lifestyles. FIC is interested in feed-back from people visiting intentional communities, particularly those communities listed in the Directory.

The information in the Dir listings is provided by resident members of each community listed, and the Fellowship does not

verify or "audit" the content of these listings. However, FIC does feel a responsibility to take positive action when negative reports about a community or listing inaccuracies are reported. The Fellowship seeks to work with local intentional communities on a personal level rather than do exposés.

Some conflicts in the listings will be due to changes in group lifestyle, imprecise wording in self description, or genuine lack of group insight regarding actual purpose -- all of which can be resolved in conversation with sympathetic seekers or other communitarians. Most such communications can best take place at the personal level. On the other hand, Cmag editors have published some poignant, public dialogues in the magazine. Insight from sensitive, negative feedback has wide potential for application in many intentional communities. An FIC goal is always to be constructive in reporting.

**** Travel Expense Subsidies: (Harvey)**

Regarding board travel expense subsidies, the following recommendations were presented to the Board:

1. For full board members the partial travel expense reimbursement system will remain unchanged -- a budgeted amount will be apportioned among requesting board members, depending on percent reimbursement requested (up to 75%?).
2. Alternates will have access to travel expense reimbursement upon request with statement of financial need.
3. Travel for designated temporary staff will be fully reimbursed. For the present, designated staff include: secretary, administrator, magazine editor, and conference coordinator.

PROPOSED: That above travel expense reimbursement system will go into effect beginning in 1995. (NOT APPROVED)

Discussion: The Fellowship started partial reimbursement of travel expenses only this year. For this meeting, the maximum subsidy will be 50% of cost. It is unknown how much can be funded next year, given projected low cash flow because of the delayed Directory publications schedule.

Travel expense reimbursement should be related to each person's productivity in the organization. If FIC expands use of the Alternate/Associate Board position, more people may come onto the board at their first meeting. The proposed policy change will distinguish between those who have already been doing FIC work, and those who might.

FIC does not generally pay travel expense reimbursement to board members for the board meeting at which they first come onto the Board. The Fellowship seeks to provide basic compensation for those Board members who contribute to production of income and services for FIC, intentional communities, seekers and wider society. This proposal recognizes the productivity of the board members and appreciates that most present board members are actively contributing. Of course, there is an awareness that some alternates/associates may produce as much or more than some full

board members.

The board is comfortable with addressing any travel expense reimbursement issues on a case by case basis. The desire of the

board is to help board members get to the meetings and to get more people involved in the work of developing intentional communities.

There will be two a separate travel expense reimbursement fund for alternates/associates and that will be a contingency fund. Alternates/associates are be asked to note their contributions when making reimbursement requests.

AGREED: FIC staff (administrator, secretary, Cmag managing editor) travel expenses to the board meetings will be completely reimbursed.

FREEZER: Discuss interim board meeting travel costs before deciding amounts of money to be reimbursed to board members for travel expenses.

TASK: Harvey will coordinate the wording of the Bylaws revisions regarding changing name from Alternate to Associate Bd Mber, and changing from annual general mbrship mtg to requirement that invitations be sent to all general members within one day road travel of each bd mtg site.

Secretary's Report: Laird

More than anyone, Laird handles the correspondence, trading back and forth with Betty. Some FIC criticisms are challenging. One letter raised the issue of having our board meeting at extravagant settings (referring to the hot tub and pool at Stonehaven). Both positive and negative letters are answered in each issue of Cmag.

Sirius Community in MA had a fire, probably arson, which burned down Corinne and Gordon's house. Laird sent a letter offering assistance, to which they responded with appreciation. Perhaps the Fellowship could take this unfortunate occurance to stimulate some ideas for cooperation in catastrophic situations -- fires and flooding -- if communities could cooperate more and think together more creatively. With fire insurance, for example, several communities paying insurance premiums might creatively use those large amounts of money for self-insurance.

Session 4. FRIDAY * NOVEMBER 4 3:45 pm F: Harvey R:Shri

** Secretary's Report (cont.):

TASK: Chad, with support from Ella and Laird, will go through all eight years of FIC minutes to compile board meeting agreements into a policy notebook.

TASK: Harvey will get all the minutes on disk and get to Chad.

** Product Endorsement Policy: Sally Mendzella has done a video on some intentional communities and wants to advertise it in Cmag, stating that \$1 per copy sold will go to FIC. Will this constitute Fellowship endorsement of the product? There was disagreement as how readers might interpret it. At this point no one has seen the video.

Maybe a disclaimer should be included. If it is a voluntary donation, then perhaps the FIC name shouldn't be mentioned in the ad. We want to encourage people, but be cautious at the same time.

Thinking about a general policy; there is a difference between accepting donations from people selling a product and accepting money from an endorsement. If there is a line in the ad about a voluntary donation to FIC, rather than an endorsement, that is OK.

If anyone wants to use FIC's name as a reference or endorsement, then the board must be aware and enthusiastic about the product or service. The board will probably need to deal with such things on a case to case basis.

????AGREED: The Fellowship does not give permission for the FIC name to be put on any products and services which are contrary to our mission. Unless FIC formally endorses a product or service, a disclaimer will be included in any ads published in Cmag which mention the Fellowship.

TASK: Refer to AC? An evaluation committee should be established to determine the appropriateness for any endorsements, use of FIC name or logo.

FREEZER: Develop a pro-active system to evaluate products or services seeking FIC endorsement.

** Conference Reports:

** Twin Oaks Annual Communities Conference - (Ira) Held on Labor Day weekend as usual, the gathering was very successful this year. Twin Oaks brought in \$4,000 and worked about 400 hours. Communities seeking new members (more than a dozen) were a strong part of the conference, and there were plenty of seekers. FIC members were there.

** Communal Studies Association Conference - (Elph and Harvey) This intellectually focused conference is becoming popular! The format moves between seminars, panels of researchers and communitarians, and research reports by academics from a wide variety of disciplines. Lots of contemporary communitarians were present this year. The meetings are always held at an historic communal site -- this time at Oneida Mansion House, near Syracuse NY. The Mansion House had not been open to anything like the CSA gathering since it was a fully functioning intentional community over 100 years ago. The next conference will be at Estero, Florida in October, 1995.

** International Communal Studies Association Conference - (Caroline) This event will be held in Israel at the end of May, hosted by a kibbutz in the suburbs of Jerusalem. Caroline and her husband Jim are planning to attend.

** Northwest Intentional Communities Association Conference - NICA was formed two years ago in Seattle in preparation for the FIC International Celebration at Olympia WA. SYD is on the NICA board. This year a three day event was held in a state park. Five or six states were represented. Workshop topics focused on the sustainability of group interactions. Northwest has started a quarterly newsletter and helped member groups attract new members.

COOLER: How we can better support each other's organizations?

** Cohousing Conference in Boulder - (Velma)

Caroline, Geoph, Diana and Ben and Velma attended this upbeat conference. Although, there have been tensions in the past between the cohousing movement and other intentional communities, everyone from FIC felt very well received. A "Burning Souls" discussion group was quite lively, providing inspiration that will carry the Rocky Mountain Cohousing group a long way.

Cohousers have developed strong regional networks, with Rocky Mountain Cohousing currently the strongest regional in the movement. There is a lot of positive energy for FIC among those who see cohousing as connected to other intentional communities. How can regional networks for cohousing and other intentional communities be empowered and energized? Velma would like to have the June 1995 FIC board meeting in CO so there can be more bridging opportunities. There is a cohousing column in Cmag, maybe an FIC column should be suggested for the Cohousing Newsletter.

How can we provide more support for one another and trade skills and knowledge? One of the Cohousing conference workshops dealt with how other intentional communities could help develop cohousing, and the room was packed. Community issues beyond physical and social planning are beginning to surface in some Cohousing groups as residency becomes established, but the deeper issues are still being clarified.

**** How Can Intentional Communities Work Together More?**

Have a theme for a Cmag issue on cohousing, a regional gathering with a cohousing theme, boards communicate more (Velma is on both Rocky Mountain Cohousing and FIC boards), FIC column in cohousing publications, link cohousing referrals into FIC referral index, invite Cohousing groups to advertise in the Directory. FIC communities can provide copies of membership agreements, bylaws and other basic documents. Inquiries should be referred to Betty.

??? **COMMITTEE:** with Velma. A working group to explore how to best interface FIC with cohousing.

Session 5. FRIDAY • NOV 4 • 7:30 p.m. Paul [F]; Laird [R]

**** Regional Networking: An Evening Discussion**

The evening discussion followed a community potluck. Approximately 35 people attended, including several Miccosukee Land Co-op members.

Paul started the discussion with a guided meditation:
What is the longing or impulse that brought you to this meeting?
What are your personal interests in cmty?
What does the idea of cmty living mean for you?
What are the resources or experiences relative to cmty that you bring with you, including personal skills and contacts?
The Fellowship aims to assist in your realizing your cmty visions;
how can that aim be accomplished?

**** Introductions**

(Brief self introductions of meeting participants followed, noting what each person brought to cmty. See Appendix.)

** Regional Networking, Next Steps

FIC is a continental organization with several intentional community development missions, including assistance to regional networking groups. Is there a need for a regional network or gathering in the southeastern US? What do people in this region want?

Brainstorm

- Find out who else is interested in cmty.
- Is there a computer network dedicated to others interested in a given region?
- Names from the continental database could be shared with regional organizers.
- Perhaps the Fellowship could set up regional meetings. Sharon is willing to help with organizing in the southeast.
- Internet access is provided at no cost to local residents, through FSU and the state government in Tallahassee.
- I like being in touch with others interested in cmty.
- Most towns throughout the southeast have an enclave of alternative-minded folks who complain about the transient nature of residents in their areas; hard to get any committed social systems established. An unusual number of Floridians see their roots as somewhere out of state.
- New intentional community members often do not have the idealistic drive of the early settlers. For Miccosukee Land Coop there is the chance of renewal from being in contact with new groups and seekers. The new groups get inspiration and advice out of MLC's success, and MLC gets reconnected with fresh, dynamic people.
- It would be good if cmties had help in marketing cmty products.
- Established groups can help forming cmties merely by opening up for seekers to witness day-to-day life in established communities.
- An easier flow from cmties in one region to cmties in another could be enhanced by regional gatherings.
- I appreciate that FIC is creating a space where regional cmty network needs can surface, whether any clarity emerges or not.
- The wider society needs more awareness of cmty options; there is a great hunger for these lifestyles, and lack of knowledge about the choices available.
- There are seven cmties in the Tallahassee area, but no awareness of what advantages might be created through joint cooperative organizing. Perhaps a video about cmty. Many cmties began during a boom time in rejecting materialistic choices; that's no longer the case. A video could update popular awareness regarding contemporary cmty options.
- How about a cmty building workshop for the southeastern region, for starting cmties? Perhaps MLC could host it.
- We need more hours in the day!
- If we provided increased awareness of what all the members at our home do, we could appreciate each other more and recognize opportunities for personal connections.
- With a rising interest in communitarianism, there is growing significance in the notion of community responsibilities vis-a-vis individual rights. Perhaps MLC could host a salon on this topic.
- Money is needed to finance new cmties; where will this come from?

Wrap-up: A closing circle.

Session 6. SATURDAY • NOV 5 • 9:00 am F: [Caroline] R: [Laird]

** FIC Identity in Publications (Paul)

Paul read from THE TAO OF LEADERSHIP, describing the group field. Based on his background in graphic design, Paul intends to develop a cohesive graphic image in FIC literature. He's developing FIC graphic design specifications, with as broad a range of Bd input as possible.

Among the changes being considered is a new logo (mainly because the current one is not effective in a small size, to some it looks more like a gear wheel than a circle of people). First attempts at producing literature using this cohesive design approach include a promotional flyer for the magazine and Directory.

Paul is working on magazine design, promotional literature for both the Directory and magazine, a comprehensive products catalog, a revised FIC introductory brochure, order forms, and advertising layouts. While keen on making fuller use of photos and graphics, Paul has been handicapped by lack of raw materials to draw from, as well as limitations on equipment access while on traveling.

Suggestions: Lay out the brochure so that it can be mailed alone, without an envelope. Make the Directory flyer (with magazine info on the reverse) clearly different from the magazine flyer (with Directory info on the reverse).

** Committee Reports:

** Products & Services Catalog in Process - (Paul)

Copy for this effort has not been completed. The main hold-up has been delays in completing the transcription of Celebration tapes. Some version of this catalog should be completed in time for the massive Directory promotional mailing in January.

** Community Building Manual Vision: - (Diana)

Little has been done since last mtg, when this cmtee was struck. Yet she's done considerable work on this on her own, mainly as editor of Growing Cmty Newsletter. Diana believes there's an enormous market for this product, either as a pamphlet or a small book. Perhaps this could be the focus of one of the small groups during the working session today. (Subject was scheduled for small group work, but no report was filed.)

CMTY BUILDING MANUAL CMTEE: Diana (focalizer), Shri, Ira, Gordon, Alex, Loren

AGREED: The community building manual is an important if not essential product which the FIC should produce.

** Community Clearinghouse - (Harvey)

This cmtee divided the work into two parts: 1) creating the computer format for electronic processing and access of communities information; and 2) creating a written questionnaire for collection of specific information from cmties, especially about skills and equipment available.

Harvey and Chad presented a draft questionnaire [attachment] which invites listings of skills & equipment available, or needed. The bd was asked to provide editing input on the questionnaire. Products of FIC

clearinghouse work should be accessible in both paper and electronic copy, to be printed on an as-needed basis.

**** Electronic Publishing - The Well/WWW/Internet:** (Velma & Elph)

These "Webweavers" including the presenters and Dan Greenberg collaborated to draft an outline for an on-line World Wide Web system that will be easy to use, easy to alter, easy to expand. They have considered using an existing BBS system, but ongoing access fees are unattractive, plus the product is only available to members of that particular service. An emerging alternative is to use Internet. Inexperienced and modestly equipped computer operators will encounter greater access challenges using Internet, but user-friendly system changes are happening quickly.

Through Dan Greenberg's contacts, The WELL (Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link) has invited FIC into their Internet system to set up a "mosaic home page" that won't be difficult to access. The webweavers can provide instructions for using this electronic home page. The intentional community home page is designed for accessing published data, not for dialog space. If the WELL's cost-free offer disappeared down the road, Elph and Velma feel quite certain that another low cost offer would surface. The FIC seeks to cooperate with cohousing and student cooperatives on this Internet venture.

How far does the FIC want to back this Computer Age initiative? And what proprietary Fellowship materials should be made available to the thousands of Internet Surfers?

There is a concern about losing money if FIC allows free access to the current Directory and back issues of COMMUNITIES magazine. Abstracts of FIC publications could be uploaded, rather than the entire copy printed in the paper editions.

Elph reported that some periodicals have experienced a rise in sales from providing full access to their publications. Users apparently prefer to purchase hard (paper) copies of what they've discovered they want on the Internet, rather than trying to read it all on screen.

The webweavers are aware that the hours needed to get this home page installed will be considerable. Linking the hypertext "hot keys" to related pages will take time.

AGREED: The Fellowship will accept the WELL's offer of no cost space for a Fellowship for Intentional Communities (FIC) Home Page that will be accessible to the World Wide Web and the Internet.

Electronic Publishing - Cohousing Link: Velma would like to establish a joint home page for cohousing and FIC. An alternative is to offer a cohousing link on the FIC home page. Cohousers with technical experience in Internet communications could help us develop a system for sharing follow-up contacts from the home page linkages.

PROPOSAL: That the Fellowship offer cohousing groups links to the FIC home page. (NOT ACCEPTED - See more discussion in session 12 below. - editor)

Concern was raised that a linkage appears more controlling, while a joint home page could be an alliance building experience. Reservations about how this may be off-putting to COHOUSING author Chuck Durrett, who finds our view of cohousing as a subset of intentional communities to be arrogant.

COOLER: Decision about how to cast an offer to cohousing folks for shared Internet space, along with authority for Webweavers cmtee action,

will be discussed during the small group session and reported back for board action later in this meeting.

COOLER: Specific issues needing board consideration include how much of FIC publications to put on the Internet.

** Intentional Communities Tour (Loren)

This cmtee has done no follow through on the prospects developed at the last meeting at Stonehaven.

TASK: Loren wants to see the communities tour happen and is willing to act as a contact person.

TASK: Everyone tell Loren what you're willing to do on the communities tour.

** Media Packet (Diana)

FIC wants to develop more media contact to further our mission of gathering accurate knowledge about cmties, and publicizing that knowledge in the wider culture. In particular, those familiar with cooperative living might provide insightful reporting on disastrous events like the government siege of the Branch Davidians at Waco TX, or the Solar Temple murders in Europe. A media packet under development will include a checklist of myths and realities, a clipping file of positive, myth-busting stories, good b&w photos, and contact data for FIC spokespeople. A small group will meet about the media packet during the working session later today.

Session 7. SATURDAY • NOV 5 • 10:45 am F: SYD R: Harvey

** FIC Newsletter: (Ella)

Ad hoc Newsletter Committee: Ella, Betty, Dan. Interested in working on Newsletter: Valerie, Chad, Sharon, Jillian and Alex.

One of the original purposes for publishing the Fellowship Newsletter was to show Charles Betterton that we could do it, so that he would feel more secure in turning Cmag over to us. The Fellowship thanks Dan Questenberry of Shannon Farm and Deer Rock (VA) for getting the newsletter established as a real vehicle, and then Tom Starrs who has been editor for the last two years.

AC recommends that the Newsletter move in a new direction -- to more detailed reporting about the Fellowship itself, giving in-depth coverage of board meetings and activities, bylaws changes, community statistics, and reports on membership information, regional networking, FIC projects, inter-community conferences and other projects.

Tom Starrs is stepping down as Newsletter editor. Ella has offered to be the new editor. It's not clear how much time it takes to edit and publish the Newsletter now that it's well established. Tom would know about how much time is needed to put out the 4 page newsletter quarterly.

** Job Description of Newsletter Editor: collect articles and information, select and edit, confer with Editorial Review Board, make a production calendar, coordinate layout, send to Sandhill Farm for printing and mailing. Subscription cost: \$10/yr, no cost to paid mbrs. **TASK:** Membership committee will review whether or not to continue offering newsletter for \$10 if people do not want to join FIC.

It has been hard to get the Newsletter out on time; this is a volunteer job with a challenging time schedule, hard to fit into a "normal" life.

** Compensation of Newsletter Editor: Tom Starrs recommends FIC pay the editor a small amount of money for publishing the Newsletter in a timely and elegant manner. Dan has made similar recommendations.

We have experience with organizations that have had trouble getting volunteers once they started paying for some of their needs. In our previous discussion at Stonehaven, we agreed that the Newsletter is an opportunity for a board member to volunteer time and energy. We could pay an honorarium and still have it be basically a volunteer job. Maybe \$25/issue. Do we have the money for this?

AGREED: AC will consider establishing a per issue honorarium for the newsletter editor.

** CALL FOR NEWS FROM INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES:

The Fellowship encourages communities and cooperative organizations to send information, home community newsletters and graphics to the Newsletter editor for possible inclusion in this membership periodical.

** 5 YEAR PLAN FROM STONEHAVEN IS INADEQUATE: (Geoph)

We did a five year plan draft and chart at Stonehaven. It has not been a very useful planning tool, because no priorities or people assigned to it. It's basically good ideas without plans (in many cases) for implementation.

A board retreat has been proposed for the purpose of developing a 5 year plan/strategy.

(Insert List from Big Newsprint Display - attachment ???)

Session 8. SATURDAY • Nov 5 • 2:00 pm F: [Geoph] R: [Ella]

** American Assoc. of Retired Persons, Conference Report (Betty)

Once every 10 years there is a White House conference on aging. At the conference this year, AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) called a "mini" conference to address problems of older people living in non-traditional living situations, and to create recommendations for presentation to the larger conference. Representatives included gay and lesbian groups, group homes for mental health, Ellen Hertzman from Cohousing, Asian, Native American and African American groups. Non-traditional housing was defined to include 3 groups: non-linear relatives, (that is sisters or cousins instead of parents and children); non-related adults; and relatives with a skipped generation (grandparents raising grandchildren).

Betty reports that the thinking was liberal, inclusive, and in alignment with FIC values. AARP Recommendations which apply to FIC: 1.) Support cohousing, coops, etc., as alternatives for lower income older persons, to encourage the federal HUD and Fannie May (then consequently banks) to provide loans for group housing purposes.

2.) Government regulations should open the definition of "family" to include groupings besides blood relations. This would have an effect on who qualified for public housing.

AARP conference reflections: Betty mentioned in the mini-conference that some intentional communities find it hard to define themselves for government tax identification purposes. A discussion followed about cloisters and abbeys, and nuns experiencing lessening support as they grow

older. Others noted that university dormitory space often sits unused during the summer -- these buildings are set up to support shared

housing and could potentially be used for older people as well as students.

The population census drives legislation! Alternative groups often are not disclosed in the census, for various reasons. The questions on the census are not retrieving information relevant to group living. The Census Bureau needs help defining more distinctive survey questions; communitarians could help create more relevant questions!

Many problems of the wider contemporary culture are resolved by living in intentional communities. Betty got on a soap box at the AARP mini-conference, noting analysis that local zoning laws are often narrow and restrictive of peoples' vision. Local development regulations often limit community, rather than fostering new ways of being together. The national government is not providing any broader vision either; only isolated state-sponsored demonstrations provide any creative outlets.

** Intermovement Connections (Laird)

In administering the Fellowship organization, many things come across Betty's and Laird's desks. This report is about trends or developments related to Fellowship interests.

- Frances Moore Lappe' Center for Living Democracy: grassroots activity, inspiring elected officials with new visions. Community organizing and experience with group dynamics are interests overlapping with FIC.
- Allen Butcher's COMMUNITY TOOLS, a list of publications and resources specific to communities, currently being re-edited, looking for input from the Fellowship
- Coop America, created in the late 70's by Paul Freundlich, who was the first managing editor of Cmag. FIC has a lifetime membership in Coop America, they support green businesses.
- Schumacher Society, economic and philosophy library, administers single tax, Georgist land trust in MA.
- Cmty Sustainable Resource Institute: established by Robert Gilman of In Context magazine, Betty will connect to find out if FIC should be involved.
- Community Connexions: John Poling's network, doing weekly workshops in the Portland, OR area, publishing a directory of northwestern cmties, Steven Gaskin tour will go to CC

TASK: Caroline will contact Community Connexions.

Gaia Education Outreach: touches on School of Sustainability concept, these folks should be contacted to find out how much educational vision there is in parallel with FIC.

TraNet, Bill Ellis' Coalition for Community Economics: sees ICs as holding part of the answers, via Corinne McLaughlin, FIC was invited to produce a pamphlet, will follow up after completion of Dir.

Planetary Recovery Network, Beth Ingber and Associates: very 12 step oriented, looking for ecumenical associates, taking personal responsibility for planetary problems. This format may be off putting to some.

TASK: Geoph and Diana will look into Inter-Community Connections, with Betty and Laird offering editorial advice.

TASK: Diana will solicit copy from Planetary Recovery Network, the Beth

Ingber project which addresses concerns around environmental issues using a 12 step format.

Ingber's group would like to be publicized in Cmag. The magazine could announce projects, activities and resources in alignment with FIC values. FIC is not aligning with Planetary Recovery Network in any organizational capacity.

ZEGG: (Loren) a community founded with an alternative energy focus, has 12 point plan for non-violent society. A two week summer camp has been held in Germany for several years. This year a group has come to US on a barnstorming tour to gather interest in forming a ZEGG community affiliate in Arizona. One focus of the group is non-traditional sexuality for personal healing, as well as political demonstration. A "healing biotope" is planned for next year in Portugal. Other projects include whale and dolphin research, and active pressure on government agencies to support community design.

Bill Poloniak has expressed interest in FIC endorsement or affiliation.

TASK: Betty or David Reis will go to Bill Poloniak's workshop. Some fraction of workshop fees would be sent to FIC if there was an FIC endorsement. Action plan approved.

FREEZER: The Fellowship often receives information well in advance of communities movement events; should travel funds be budgeted for sending FIC speakers to some of these events?

Session 9. SATURDAY 3:45 pm F: Small Groups R: Small Groups

Small Work Groups scheduled to meet: ZEGG, Communitarian Bill of Rights, Media Outreach, Newsletter, Community Clearinghouse, Sustainability School, Bylaws, Community Building Manual.

** Small Work Group Reports:

** Newsletter & Clearinghouse - See Session 11.

** Sustainability School - See Session 13.

** Bylaws and Community Building Manual: No reports were presented from these two work groups. Harvey and Diana, respective conveners, facilitated other work groups and may not have gotten to these topics.

** ZEGG - (Loren) The global perspectives of this German-based group relate political realities to personal behaviors around sexuality. Many people have lives fraught with rejection, and are eating their own minds. ZEGG started out with an interest in alternative energy, and continues this work with government organizations.

** Ben Zablocki's Communitarian Bill of Rights: (Diana - attachment)

Ben Zablocki wants communities to sign on to a bill of rights. He's inspired and concerned because some communities are seen as cults by the public media. A concern is that the bill of rights he's written implies that communities may normally oppress individual rights and abusing individuals.

The proposal by Diana for reframing this issue assumes:

It is not in the best interest (ibi) of communities that public media continue to portray ics as cults.

Not ibi of cmties that some cmties are abusive and oppressive.

Not ibi of seekers not to know what they might be getting into. While the US Bill of Rights was created in response to abuses by Britain, an occupying political power.

The Zablocki bill is in response to a negative situation in supposedly

voluntary intentional communities, and is an attempt to affirm personal rights. Diana suggests publishing Zablocki in Cmag,

offering mailing lists for dissemination, and publishing some signers lists. Possible other follow up contact.

Ben Zablocki seems to have lack of political astuteness, rather than actual coercive intent. There would be no community peer pressure to sign such a document as Zablocki's bill unless it was credible, positive and friendly.

**** FIC Thoughts on a Bill of Rights:** Does the Fellowship support the concept of such a document, either this one or another version?

Should someone, Zablocki or someone else, publish a bill of rights for communitarians and enable dialog about it?

Laird thinks this is a appropriate issue for FIC discussion. The magazine might be a forum for disseminating the info. But the time it could take to process responses might be prohibitive. This project may seem more attractive from the outside ... before close examination of the details. Tim Miller, Albert Bates and others have discussed this topic before and point out that there are already public laws against slavery, criminal conspiracy and many kinds of abuse, whether at the hands of groups or individuals.

Personal freedom in cooperative living groups is a big and philosophical issue; it is deeper than the time available. Before moving forward from this first exposure, this bill of rights issue needs in depth consideration.

Proposal: discuss the concept of a bill of rights for communitarians in the board retreat next spring.

If ERB and Cmag want to publish a "My turn" column by Zablocki, that might be ok. But the FIC board will not take any position on this now. The first opportunity for decisions will be for the March Cmag, due in January 1995.

Suggestion: jawbone Zablocki, affirming importance of this issue, and recognizing the importance of not hurrying. When this appears in Cmag, an extensive dialog may develop in the Letters to the Editor.

AGREED: Discuss Zablocki's Communitarian bill of rights in board meeting and with Zablocki, stressing the importance of this issue and the need for in depth development. The board will discuss a communitarian bill of rights during the retreat, after notifying membership via newsletter before the retreat.

**** Media Packet:** (Diana) The working group discussed Diana's vision of a media packet that would contain recent press releases, photos, photocopies of positive press articles, and a list of common myths and stereotypes about intentional community with corrective responses that would include demographic data where appropriate. The group named a list of common myths and spent time sharing information for correcting some of the misguided attitudes about intentional community that are prevalent in the wider society. Diana planned to develop this list in consultation with the Editorial Review Board.

Session 10. SUNDAY • 9:30 am F: [Shri] R: [Ella]
BEFORE BRUNCH - (only one morning session)

Rune: Protection

**** Electronic Publishing - Cohousing Link** (Laird)

This is a report on and continuation of yesterday's BBS discussion. Many hours were spent in small group exploring the energy sources behind the blowup between Ira, Velma, Laird and others, regarding the language

and attitude with which to approach the cohousing movement about the electronic home page. Laird feels good about working with the cohousing movement, appreciative of bridge building done by communitarians, both at Boulder conference of CoHo and the Twin Oaks cmties conference.

A perception developed that Laird viewed CoHo as somehow hierarchically "below us." Laird's actual feeling was that cohousing is part of the larger cmties movement, and advocates that position in the Fellowship. Cohousers sometimes avoid identifying with the intentional communities movement, because of negative hippie stereotypes. A national level cohousing organization is just now being formed, hopefully positive relations can be developed, as has been the case with Rocky Mountain Cohousing.

Laird invites Velma and any others to respond to his clarification of relationships with cohousing networks. Velma expresses approval of the proposal for an FIC home page on the WELL, with no formal association overtures from the Fellowship to CoHo movement groups.

The politics and organizational dynamics of the FIC-CoHo relationship might be complex. One view is that of two streams: cmty stream is old culture -- pre-Sixties, even Biblical; CoHo is from an architectural/physical plane conceived in the Sixties. A sense of the Fellowship is that of a trade association for cooperative living. One perception of the architectural design movement is that the middle class is seeking to experience more cmty without challenging their upward mobility. It is possible that to cohousers, "historical" intentional community has negative associations with downward mobility.

Be cautious about offering cohousers a social analysis or direction they don't want. Besides, the physical reality of the Internet home page project doesn't need any hierarchical relationships defined between FIC and cohousing anyway.

Laird: I admit I am naive as to the electronics, but I care about the labels that are attached to such things. Intentional Communities and CoHousing home pages linked and are different for me than a joint IC/Coho home page. But I don't desire to regulate the contents. I have a view about what cmties are and I have a desire to put that out. I am not saying "this is how it is."

When I learned that my statement had unexpected divisive results, I was concerned as a negotiator. Operating from a position of honesty and openness, I seek to assure a person across the river from me that I want to build a bridge. It is hard for me to understand myself as being off putting.

Anybody can start a bulletin board. Does FIC want to start a bulletin board on cooperative living? How would FIC publicize the BBS among various groups. Clearance is desired to start the BBS and work out links between groups.

There is agreement to act, but the language of the webweavers group should be supported (Elph, Velma, Dan G).

Ira: I feel like no one has been heard except Laird. This opportunity and energy is being stepped on and derailed.

COOLER: FIC - Cohousing Internet link will be revisited later.

** Administrator's Report (Betty)

FIC headquarters is now in a small office/apartment in Langley, Bainbridge Island WA. Betty has moved written materials there, trying to

build up a small library. (She will propose a budget item for library development at the next meeting.) There are requests to visit the office, from Puget Sound locals and travelers passing through. The area code for Langley is changing, all publications need to reflect this change -- from 206 to 360, as of Jan. 15.

TASK: Geoph and Jillian and Diana and all publishers note the change of the area code at Langley HQ from 206 to 360.

There has been some pay for administrative assistants budgeted. Tarja Bennett-Williams is doing some of the routine stuff, but is not really connected with the names and networks involved, which is limiting for certain requests.

Betty spent 3 days with Svet Zabelin, chairperson for a socio-ecological union of 250 groups in the former USSR. He received the Goldman Environmental Prize which goes to one person from each continent. He thought the FIC was an interesting idea and that he could learn by connecting. He stayed in Langley for 2 days, exploring an interest in putting together a group to come to this country to learn about sustainable agriculture. The level of trust between groups in Russia is very low. Team building and trust building techniques could be helpful to them. Betty provided him contacts in permaculture and community supported agriculture (CSA), like the CSA here at Sunrise Ranch.

Svet visited Lois Arkin at Los Angeles Ecovillage, and the Earth Island Institute. There is money available to do trainings with former soviets through the Academy of Educational Development. Betty will follow up any possibilities that seem appropriate.

**** Affinity Telephone Service Commissions: (Betty)**

A long distance telephone service, Affinity, offers a guaranteed undercut of any existing rate now in place. Affinity will rebate 5% to the non-profit organization you choose. We could advertise this, FIC supporters could sign up for Affinity with FIC receiving the 5% rebate.

Could we solicit among the board first, and then advertise? To go forward with Directory advertising, the ad copy would have to be placed in two weeks. There is concern about the turmoil in the communications industry, will Affinity have staying power? Robert Gilman may have information about this. In Context magazine is advertising Affinity. Ads might appear in Cmag, Newsletter and Dir.

AGREED : AC has approval to pursue Affinity phone service commissions pending Betty's research with Robert Gilman.

TASK: Betty will call Robert Gilman about particulars of the Affinity phone service commissions, then report to AC for decision.

**** Treasurer's Report: (Betty)**

IRS: Last year was the first year we filed Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service. This filing requires skill and is due six months after fiscal year end, which is the first of the calendar year for FIC. Forms were sent out late by the IRS this year, so they extended a grace period. The fine for late reporting was \$10/day. The report was sent in after the second deadline, and Betty figured the fine was about \$250. The IRS sent a letter saying we owed \$860. Betty sent check for \$250, and wrote a letter

describing confusion about deadline dates. (The

letter extending a grace period was lost; so there is some dispute about the amount of fine.)

** Annual Budget: [see attachment]

The first budget handout listed actual amounts. Directory expenses were taken out of this budget. This was a representation of cash flow. Some expenses were not listed; some office expenses including postage and phone costs have not yet been filed. There were accounting problems resulting from the merger of previously separate operating accounts at Langley WA (dues and Celebration management) and Sandhill Farm in MO (Directory and magazine publishing).

Celebration tail ends budget item referred to payment of Ella, Patch Adams and some miscellaneous gifts for speakers. How much did FIC net from Celebration? About \$13,500.

There was not a balance sheet available, and the income and expenses don't fit together. But there was about \$17,400 in accounts at Langley. Current cash equivalents included DIR inventory totalling about \$27,000, plus accounts receivable of about \$10,000 more. The Fellowship was in a solid financial situation, contrary to past years.

The budget projected a deficit equal to cash assets. Betty was listed for a raise from \$900 to \$1000/month. And Diana's income as Cmag managing editor may go up, too, due to incentives previously established. She was receiving \$750/month for 1/2 time.

Proposal: that Diana's salary be increased as soon as possible from distribution income.

Discussion: should Diana and Betty be on payroll instead of being paid as contractors. Labor costs would increase due to paying FICA and Worker's Compensation, and maybe health insurance.

AGREED: Betty has the option to receive some of the budgeted assistant's pay if she does the assistant's work. That is, some of the assistant's pay can be used to supplement the administrator's salary when the administrator works over 1/2 time. Such transfers will be reviewed by the AC.

AGREED: The Budget was approved as presented.

FREEZER: Geoph would like to consider how we do open books. This financial information should be communicated more widely.

Starting in 1995, at any moment in time the books will be available for public inspection. By then FIC financial systems will be integrated. Separate accounting of projects has complicated Fellowship accounting.

** Administrative Committee Report: (Laird)

The Administrative Committee spends the most time on preparation for the board meetings, and follow up. AC does a lot of work, but this round, two unusual issues needed extended management attention.

Consensus Facilitation Guild took an entire day's discussion. This led to budgeting for an AC representative to come to Guild meetings in June and August. There is discussion about the depth of association between FIC and the Guild.

Ken Norwood has requested loan assistance to publish his book, REBUILDING COMMUNITY IN AMERICA. The AC designed a detailed offer

providing \$5000 from the Loan Fund, contingent on finishing the book,
paired with \$5000 from the Federation of Egalitarian Communities.

Together the two loans would cover one third of his direct credit needs. Ken has not yet closed on this loan.

**** Board Retreat Proposal:** That a full board strategic planning retreat be added to the two day winter AC meeting.

There have been winter administrative committee meetings in each of the last 2 years, for in-depth work on budgets, CMag, Directory, administrative roles, long term planning and other detailed issues. AC members place a high value on the personal level of social interaction at interim meetings.

Whether to do a full board retreat? Too often, board members can leave meetings dissatisfied from a lack of connections with other board members, hosts or visitors. Sounds like a good idea to get together apart from regular board meetings to see who we are, and where we're going -- particularly since this hasn't been done before. The Fellowship is at the end of a 7 year cycle; a good time to look at the next jump. In adding a strategic planning retreat for the full board, use of an outside facilitator should be considered. We have a choice of two possible sites for this winter meeting: Dunmire Hollow (TN), Harvey's home community, and Oakwood Farm (IN), an Emissary cnty.

To what extent would folks not on the board be welcome at a strategic planning retreat? Board and staff only? There is support for a closed retreat to keep the focus on strategic planning. The sense of the meeting is to include alternates, too, and Diana as staff (CMag editor). People considering becoming seriously involved could be invited, but should not self-invite. Retreat participants should start with a high base of commitment and/or experience in community networking.

FIC Bylaws require that board and committee business meetings are open to any members. To be closed, the retreat could not be a business meeting. Remembering the Fellowship goal to be inclusive and open; perhaps notice of the retreat should be given to the general membership, with anyone welcome to observe but not to participate. Participation could be limited to people who already have commitment to FIC.

While the semi-annual Fellowship board meetings are open, interim AC meetings have not been publicized. This is an interim meeting including the whole board. Maybe we should view interim meetings as less public than the regular board meetings. Inclusivity should continue to be a value at the regular meetings. One method of sharing with others about the retreat would be to report on the retreat at the next board meeting.

Consideration of the proposal for a board retreat will be continued at the second session following lunch today.

Session 11. SUNDAY • 1:00 pm F: [Paul] R: [Laird]

**** FIC Newsletter, Small Group Report:** (Ella)

A shift is recommended to more reporting of Fellowship activities and regional events. The Newsletter should highlight dialogs and discussions in board deliberations to better inform and solicit input from general members.

Discussion: Is the Newsletter editor going to send article copy to

Editorial Review Board before printing? How much news from member counties will be included? ERB seeks added reporting in the above areas, not a shift away from reprinting home community coverage.

TASK: The Newsletter will report on both Fellowship and member community activities.

AGREED: Ella will be the Newsletter Editor, with all copy being reviewed by the Editorial Review Board already in place for Cmag and other FIC publications.

** Community Clearinghouse, Small Group Report: (Harvey)

Once the questionnaire is approved, cmtee recommends mailing the questionnaire to all cmties in the FIC data base (not just listed cmties), coordinating with another mailing (probably the Directory release and solicitation announcement in late January).

Discussion: should we include a business reply envelope, or a blank envelope, or make it easier to stamp the sheet and return without an envelope? Laird reported that we did not get markedly better response in Directory 2.1 solicitations, using business reply envelopes.

AGREED: A Community Clearinghouse questionnaire will be included in the mass mailing announcing the publication date of the 1996 COMMUNITIES Directory.

** Another Continental Celebration? (A Brainstorm) - (Betty)

What kinds of gatherings or events best serve the IC network's needs? Ideas to consider include:

- Something to help people searching that's a step beyond the Directory; something that gets seekers and cmties together, face-to-face - this may be best served on a regional, rather than continental, basis.
- Something that's more nuts and bolts oriented; the nitty gritty of cmtly development; something for those already committed to trying, and hungry for technical assistance.
- A traveling show that would bring excitement to local communities, rather than asking communitarians to come to an FIC meeting site.

Diana: People need information on how to create cmtly now; workshops on leadership and process, perhaps in conjunction with the Bd mtgs we're already traveling to attend, even at the same host site.

Sharon: FIC could ask cmties looking for new members to host Fellowship workshops.

Dan: The Bd mtg itself models the process work we teach; let's use the inspiration provided by demonstrating the well-run meetings.

Ira: If the focus is on seekers' interests, Bd mtgs are way too many mtgs in a row. She prefers Diana's suggestion, especially if the host site has conferencing facilities. Keep in mind the cost resistance in such opportunities. Twin Oaks could easily publicize such events, piggybacking it on other mailings. Also keep in mind that participants can largely create their own event if the site and meeting framework are set up with that in mind; just a core set of workshops is often enough.

Alex: Accessible regional gatherings have appeal because financial and time limitations are reduced for many potential participants.

Ira: The Continental Celebration generated a modest revenue for FIC, but the return could be greater for smaller, regional events. Concentrating a small, dedicated and talented team of Fellowship fanatics could be well worth the revenue, even when splitting income with a host community.

Dan: How about a regional electronic conference?

Harvey: This MLC interchange experience has illuminated the value of comparing structures and systems among established cmties that do things differently, even though their cmtly values are much the same.

Sharon: The value of dispelling myths about intentional communities can be achieved better through more regional events, rather than fewer big national gatherings.

Dan: Events are opportunities to showcase some of our more tangible products, like appropriate technology developments.

Loren: Perhaps FIC could help build a gathering site that is turned over to a cmtly, or even becomes part of a cmtly business.

Laird: There is an energy and feeling of a whole in doing a continental event, and arguably only the FIC can do it. Let's not lose sight of that.

TASK: Velma has energy for organizing another continental event, perhaps in two years time.

TASK: Ira wants to help regional events happen, and has considerable experience in organizing them. Tom and Sharon are both willing to help.

Caroline feels a deja vu in this discussion. In both the Greens and the Bioregionals, continental movements have not helped maintain regional organizing. Maybe FIC could change that history. Regional networks must have grass roots strength, but FIC's continental skills can make a difference. The Fellowship needs to pick carefully where to focus energies, to avoid ineffectiveness.

Regional Gatherings: Possible areas ripe for regional stimulation include the Pacific Northwest, Southern Rockies, Blue Ridge Mountains, PA and NY. There are plenty of needs to serve: the need for seekers to match with cmties open to new members; the need for forming cmties to get technical assistance; the need for existing cmties to dialog with each other for information exchange and joint ventures; the need for dispelling myths in the wider society about contemporary cmties.

Is Miccosukee interested in hosting a regional event for the southeastern states? Judith and others in the audience from MLC expressed interest and will meet at supper with FIC people who have experience with regional cmties gatherings: SYD, Ira, Alex, Valerie, Velma, Diana.

Dan started out with regional organizing, having no intention of going farther afield. Yet here he is. There's a real role for continental activists in the feeding of regional and local networks; they are essential in encouraging more activists to extend their work beyond their home communities.

Road Show or Book Tour: Tom would like to test for interest in a traveling road show, to spark and discover the extent of regional interest. Who would staff a road show? Who has time? Maybe only three or four core people would be needed, and they could be rotated.

How about a book tour when the new Directory is out? Perhaps Kat Kinkade's books about Twin Oaks and other titles could be included. This could meet the road show need, the income need, and general outreach functions. Diana and SYD would be willing to help staff book tours in their regions. Unity Churches and bookstores are likely places to approach. Budget for this?

Book Tour Committee: SYD (focalizer), Ira, Sharon, Diana will get together this evening and work up a plan, including a budget.

FREEZER: What to do about organizing more gatherings, probably referred to the interim Bd retreat.

Session 12. SUNDAY • 2:45 pm F: [Harvey] R: [Ella]

**** Board Retreat Proposal Confirmed:** (Geoph presenting)

Do we want to allocate personal energy and time as well as the FIC resources for a Board Retreat? Some positive comments have been offered. Any reservations? Unanimous support for the Board Retreat.

AGREED: The Board of the Fellowship will meet for a retreat between the Fall '94 and Spring '95 Board meetings.

The two site choices are Dunmire Hollow (TN), board member Harvey Baker's home community, and Oakwood Farm (IN), an Emissary cmtty and the home of Charles Betterton, former Cmag editor and FIC co-incorporator.

The retreat will be for three days, over a weekend, 31 March through 2 April, with April 3-4 for AC working sessions. Location to be decided by AC. What is the range of the invitations for the different segments? How widely will this retreat be publicized? Given the need for extra group focus during retreat time, the general membership and the public should not be invited to the retreat.

Sandhill Farm (MO) has completely open meetings. Whoever is on the farm is welcome to sit in. It's rare to ask for restrictions. The overwhelming response has been positive and appreciative from visitors. This is about living a commitment for honesty. We have a need for safety, but not for closed meetings. The closeness and sharing of FIC meetings is a precious quality, but that quality needn't be diminished by having a wider circle.

Would it be possible to open the retreat for an evening/afternoon? The intent of the meeting has not been decided. If the retreat is to be closely focused, with a concentrated intent, the meeting may not be compatible with an open, drop-in style.

If the intent of the retreat was clarified, that could give guidance in designing the retreat style. There should be an option to close the meeting if people aren't deepening themselves. The notion of retreat is not about safety, it's about what can happen when there is concentrated focus and attention. A 7 year cycle planning meeting could be open, but a planning retreat is more for camaraderie, team building. Retreat focus is all internal, rather than on host community, walk-ins, or day to day business.

Meeting preference is for a small group retreat. Making this time the most it can be for board member team development is the important priority, outweighing the desire for complete openness.

Is there an openness for allies to attend ... partners, volunteer workers? There is some support for that, but how wide a range would be effective?

AGREED: A 3 day board retreat will be planned. AC will contract an outside facilitator after considering budget and style of facilitation needed. Participation at this retreat will include technical staff, conference staff, and intimate partners. AC will monitor the retreat roster.

TASK: The Newsletter will solicit input from general members on the board retreat.

** Task Follow-Up: (Geoph)

The Fellowship Board of Directors has essentially been a working board. Members and other board meeting participants volunteer and work on specific tasks, and task lists are sent out after every meeting. Coming into this meeting, many tasks had fallen in the cracks, others were being developed without needed support and coordination. How could we better manage task follow up?

A chronic illustration: There is a \$3,000 deficit in membership revenue because the membership committee has not mailed membership renewal solicitations.

BRAINSTORM:

Consider adding a 4th day of meetings for committee work.

List cmtee convenors in minutes to enhance continuity in cmtee tasks.

Support and encourage active committees.

Cmtee mbrs tell convenors best (and worst) lines of communication.

Convenors should ask for timelines on each task.

Convenors be ready to accept responsible withdrawals & reassign.

Convener/focalizer duty includes managing/delegating task follow up. Be realistic about detailing priorities.

Re-post task lists periodically and update.

Everyone can monitor task lists and support projects that fall behind.

Encourage progress reports.

Put completed projects on finished list, and take off to do list. Bridges of Connection to Laird and others who don't use E-mail. Contact is valuable, team loyalty grows by working together.

Reports invite further participation, and appreciation of each other.

Task oriented buddy system could be supportive.

TASK: Jenny is task meta for E-mail monitoring until 4-5-95, and then Geoph. This means update and re-post task list regularly.

TASK: Geoph will write up job description for E-mail Meta for next board meeting. Feedback/prompt style will be monitored by committee convenors.

TASK: AC & Geoph will brainstorm procedure for E-mail Meta.

TASK: Cmtees assign convener/focalizers & report names to AC.

**** Consensus Facilitation Guild Update:** (Betty & Shri)

Caroline Estes, Alpha Farm, has been teaching facilitation for 8 years, training large numbers of people. Since many new people are doing facilitation, there is a need for some way to accredit trained facilitators, to share jobs and train new facilitators, spreading the work out from Caroline and other complimentary trainers. Caroline's courses in Colorado have been productive. A Consensus Guild is developing there. Some CO folks brought a Guild proposal to Stonehaven, seeking FIC support. Despite strong personal interest, the Fellowship at that time chose not to support one specific kind of consensus training because of felt conflict with the ecumenical FIC focus. The guild group meets separately, and the question of FIC relationship with the guild is not active.

Shri: Guild members invited Caroline to Boulder several times, and have developed a local network that meets monthly. The CO group would like to relate to a national facilitators guild. 8 people have already met around this issue, including Betty, Caroline, Shri, Paul. At end of December,

national guild focalizers will meet again at Alpha. December decisions will be around centralizing. Training of facilitation trainers

is the next project, to spread out responsibility for others to be involved in this work.

Turtle Island Consensus Guild has a non-profit organization in place that might be helpful; what to do is known. But the logistics are difficult. Is the guild thinking about residential training situations? Facilitation training should be linked with the sustainability school. They are a continuum.

This report is to keep alignment, to keep FIC informed of national guild progress.

** Electronic Publishing - The Well/WWW/Internet & Cohousing Link:

(Caroline)

FREEZER: Policy question: What is FIC's position in relation to networking on the Internet with groups and organizations which have cmtyp organizations within them? (Cohousing, Ecovillages, Federation of Egalitarian Communities)

Looking at history and identity, the Fellowship for Intentional community has grown out of a conscious, "intentional" type of community development. We need to look at our mission in the broadest sense, as a networking organization for COOPERATIVE LIVING. This is a HUGE question. A topic for a board retreat.

TASK: Elph, Jillian, Velma, Michael will develop the FIC home page according to their best technical judgement, referring to the AC when policy issues arise.

WEBWEAVER CMTEE: Elph, Jillian, Velma, Michael

Session 13. SUNDAY • 4:50 pm F: [Laird] R: [Betty]

** Thanks to Miccosukee Land Coop, Host Community:

All gave a standing ovation to Rose for work she and other MLC and Sunrise community members have done to make our visit to Tallahassee so successful!

TASK: AC will determine how to thank Miccosukee Land Coop for hosting the FIC bd mtg.

** Sustainability School Vision: (Caroline)

This bd mtg is the first time since starting work 6 months ago, that the sustainability school concept has been presented outside the school working groups. Eight people have met and worked on this idea and others have contributed to the brainstorm.

Many of us live our lives based on an assumption that our civilization will have bumpy times in the near future. Some futurist sources give "civilization as we know it" only twenty five more years to survive, until 2020.

Each part of the sustainability school will have four "surrounds:" Community, Ecology, Bioregionalism, and Spirituality.

There will be four areas of study - culture, agriculture, technology, and relationships (personal, group, collective, planet, cosmos). The heart (love) is central to everything taught. The school is envisioned now as a three year program, in three year-round places of learning.

1st year - consensus lifestyle - the totality - how do we live our lives in relationship with all on the planet. Some people are issue oriented and some are process oriented, divided into 4 classes of 25

each. All would take part the first year in consensus training, two groups working through an issue orientation, two working through process.

Next year - first 6 months work in agriculture and second, work in culture. Third year in technology.

The plan is to have the foundation together by Jan. 1. No central location is definite. The vision is to have 50 locations -- one in each bioregion, within 5 years. Some people have been working on the idea of creating eco-steries (like monasteries) in various locations to preserve our current knowledge. This work could be side-by-side with the school, which has to be based in intentional communities. The form of the communities should not be of one type. FIC has experience with many different forms of intentional community.

Discussion: There are pieces of this school well developed all over the place, but none are inclusive of these "surrounds". The concept of 50 schools within 5 years seems overwhelming -- the time frame is overwhelming. But pilot programs could be started in experimental colleges and institutions which already exist. This is a human scale vision.

Reservations: this is a very large project and FIC could be sucked up into the vortex and have a hard time holding onto the FIC projects. If this item is added to the retreat, there is a caution to not let it take away from the work and projects that already need review.

This is a big, exciting project, and in alignment with FIC. When discovering aspects of this project already in operation, or any related schools, communicate with us about your findings.

AGREED: The AC is empowered to decide if they are willing to offer our 501c3 as a funding conduit for grant writing for the sustainability school.

TASK: FIC membership will be solicited in the Newsletter for information about sustainability schools that are in operation.

FREEZER: Consider criteria for groups allied closely enough to FIC mission purpose to legally use our 501c3 for start up operations. The sustainability school is closely related to our general education objectives. What are the perimeters?

**** Evaluation:**

What were problems for you? Did anything get in the way of participation? Things to improve?

Long range planning (5 year plan) graphics were confusing.

Better to have a timeline with slots to fill in.

Planning discussion needed better preparation.

Items to be read should be available earlier.

Agenda presenters should be prompted a bit ahead of time.

Access to Xerox machine would have made things easier.

More detail needed on agenda items.

More flexible agenda lay out, in a way that facilitates changes.

Have an agenda manager and a big agenda posted with all the changes.

Better process for getting agenda items to people building the agenda.

More time in the agenda for things which come up during the meeting.

More time for work groups and more report time before the whole group.

Time too squeezed. Add a day.
Inadequate audio-visual surfaces.

Not enough variety of approach in meeting design.

What stood out? what worked? What did you like?
The hosting by MLC. TLC from MLC.
New people in meeting stayed on topic and contributed to the meeting.
Appreciated the openness and sincerity in hearing from newcomers.
Caroline's quiet and subtle facilitation management and presence.
Opportunity to see the group work together, see the group in action.
Switching roles and witnessing the consensus process.
People putting FIC mission ahead of their personal desires.
Sensitivity to taking up group time.
Channeling details to correct places.
Dedication to work outside plenary, making things smoother in plenary.
Great food and food preparation.
Thanks to people who brought emotionally hot topics to the meeting -
seeing conflict as opportunity.
Good visual aids by Geoph.
The dance, the free evening.
The dedication of minute takers and smoothness of facilitators.
Skills of helping one another through conflict.
Started on time.
Plans to follow up and good task follow up.
Realization of modeling community more than modeling "boards."
Good to see old friends.
Newcomers staying through the whole meeting.
Consistency of good times with each other.
Appreciate how organized the presenters were.
The underlying positive sense of sturdy onwardness.

** Closing Circle.

APPENDIX: REGIONAL NETWORKING INTRODUCTIONS

Harvey: CSA Bd; FIC Bd

Chad: FIC Bd; regional network development; wants to be legitimized in pursuing his interests.

SYD: co-op house (Orca Landing) in Seattle; on NICA Bd; wants to help regional networks connect; has process skills.

Davey: part of original Miccosukee (MLC) group; interested in intercmty networking; does considerable Internet coordination.

Tom: lives at MLC; new to networking, though interested; attracted to cohousing for older folks.

Anthony: cmtty experiences go back to '72; several cmtties on resume, including Union Acres in NC; many years experience operating a summer camp oriented to Native American spirituality; wants to keep working with children.

Judith: MLC since '75; cmtty is about being connected with people; inspired by the positive influence of FIC publications; struggling to hold onto the inspiration and dedication to high ideals of the founding days.

Rose: current coordinator of MLC (FIC outreach contact); she's a teacher and is renewed and inspired in her work by the positive dynamics of MLC; feels life has been immeasurably enriched by cmtty experience and wants to give some of that back.

Jenny: related to strong ties many have reported about connections to their home cmtties; her community is Shannon Farm in Virginia.

Sharon: from Orlando, feels welcome here; looking for a cmtty to join; cohousing doesn't seem enough.

Gordon: from Twin Oaks; here as a mtg groupie; loves talking and thinking about cmtty; wants to have traditional measures of American progress for the cmtties movement: more, bigger, better.

Ira: from Twin Oaks and Acorn (dual member); long-term Federation of Egalitarian Cmtties delegate; on good days she feels we can change the world; inspired by cmtty she knows in Mexico that has opened their doors to poor people in their area as a place to hang out for a time and contribute as they can. Some get hooked on cmtty thereby.

Moonglow: has this ongoing thing about commitment; wants to get out and connect again with others; from Virginia and wants to connect especially with cmtties there.

Anjoya: From MLC, with curiosity about the movement; curious about what is happening elsewhere.

Suzie: lived at MLC a long time; here to raise a family; from Mississippi and interested in knowing what's going on there.

Linda: here with her daughter; lived at MLC 20 years on and off; also lived in cmtty in OR; very satisfied with MLC.

Rick: lives at MLC (NW Kingdom) since '79; less motivated by co-op concept in his kingdom; likes the socializing; hearing the networking motivations of others in the room is inspiring.

Marlene: member of MLC; interested in children, elderly, and those in between.

Sue: lives in Tampa and interested in cmtty.

Steve: with Sue from Tampa; appreciated hearing the cmtty stories from

people at MLC; drawn to Smoky Mountains especially, and seeks cmtty info about that area.

Jane: MLC member; drawn to cmtly by safety and support for raising a family; children get a sense of security, chances for stimulation, knowledge about ritual; glad that there's a wealth of variety among cmties movement; knows of neighborhood associations in Tallahassee which function as cmties.

Julie: new to MLC, long-term friend of MLC; cmtly replaces missing extended family and addresses feelings of isolation; safe place to grow and to risk; her resource is friendship and willingness to tell her story; has music to share.

Dan: from Shannon Farm and Deer Rock VA (dual member), wants to share e-mail connections with Terry the Geek; happy to supply cmtly contacts for others desiring them; likes working with others in the struggle of integrating the demands and attractions of the material world with the spiritual; his vision is to reform individualized land-tenure systems to facilitate more group land ownership.

Velma: organizational skills; computer skills; great connections in the cohousing movements; needs lots of stuff (mainly a nap right now).

Valerie: From Twin Oaks VA, feels in relationship with the cmties movement, in a joyous way; excited to be a part of this meeting; administrative skills; desires a structure/vessel for channeling her energy; previous relationship is with the women's movement and likes the crossover.

Roger: lives at Grassroots cmtly (also in Tallahassee); curious about networking and what others are doing; strong values around people cooperating and jointly raising children; hungry to hear from others about their visions.

David: loves MLC and wrote a book about it; perhaps 12 people have been inspired to move to MLC as a result of the book; a student of cmtly, as well as a teacher; formally a teacher of philosophy; been disappointed in MLC in last few years because of complacency: the alternative pioneers have now become the reactionary establishment; consideration of change meets massive passivity.

Anila: visited many communities and is searching for a home; appreciates the love and positive energy in this room; struggling to find cmtly in this country, transplanted from her native Pakistan; perhaps FIC can help her get a small cmtly started that will include her?

Indistinct?: lives on MLC; believes in the cooperative movement; the editor of Hygienic Cmtly Network News asked her to represent them at this mtg and write a report.

Rachel: part of a healing center; and strongly wants to start or join a cmtly; been reading the Directory avidly for two years.

Allen: from Jacksonville; some cmtly experience though not in one now; not sure of what he has to offer, but confident there's something; feels safe with this group.

Loren: from California; closing in on a long search for a new cmtly family; wants to get into a healthy environment, where he can be somebody's father.

Alex: lives at Twin Oaks now; past experience in group houses in Seattle and Iowa; inspired by the stories tonight; can help others make small group houses work; and help make cmtly accessible for those who

think they don't have the money to make the lifestyle change.

Michael: from Ann Arbor and group house experiences there; life is short and he wants to emphasize the richness of cmtly life to make the most of it.

Jillian: also from Ann Arbor and student co-ops there; started a group house in Ann Arbor; excited by FIC contacts; has energy to educate others about cmtly choices and less materialistic living; editing and computer skills.

Elph: working with the FIC for four years has added meaning to his life; interested in web-mastering cmtly info on the electronic internet; works as database manager for FIC.

Laird: loves doing FIC network administration and group process work.

Diana: now in Ft Collins; not currently in cmtly, but has helped form group houses in HI and San Francisco; loves making people connections and editing cmtly publications; wants to start a cmtly focusing on children in northern CO.

Geoph: last seven years on the road among intentional communities; skills in group process, architecture, electrical wiring, masonry, general construction, renovation and repair; probably greatest skill is asking provocative questions and sharing the experiences of other communitarians he has learned from in his travels; desire is for spiritual growth and the meaning of life; fortunately his giving is the flip side of his getting.

Claire: has been at Alpha Farm for 7 years; cmtly living allows people to see their limitations more clearly and she feels skilled at helping people in this clarification process.

Jane: at MLC since '77, and appreciates the extended family feel of the place.

Laurent: from a Mayer Baba cmtly in Athens GA; dream is to live with people focusing on cmtly living as a life path.

Agnes: lives at MLC; dream was to live a committed, safe life, ideal for raising children; now past that, and asking how this will work for seniors?

Paul: loves helping people get together; it's the most satisfying and stimulating way to live his life; by helping others he learns and grows the most; desires to be both a teacher and a learner; not now living in a residential cmtly; surprised at the lack of clarity of his immediate future, though satisfied it's the correct path.

The following guidelines describe what we want at the end of the first edit. Each recorder can record in whatever manner they prefer, and will edit their own writing, to be completed (and spell-checked) before the end of the "Later Committee" sessions.

We will designate one computer as the master Minute Computer for an entire Board meeting, and a second as the Task Computer for highlighting specific assignments and all tabled items (this will be a duplication of what the recorder captures).

Guidelines (See sample page for examples)

- **Session Headings** are in **BOLD CAPS**, with separation of day and times with bullets.
- **Facilitator & Recorder** F: [Facilitator name] and R: [Recorder name] are noted in plain type at the beginning of the session they're on duty.
- **Agenda Topics** will be in **boldface, lowercase**, followed by presenter's name in parenthesis (not in boldface).
- **Subheadings** within the agenda topic will be underlined, (not bold) followed by presenter in parenthesis (if different from who was presenting last).
- **Tense:** Use past tense.
- **Paragraphs:** Only single carriage returns between paragraphs, except use a double return to mark the start of a new session. (paragraphs at 4 pt)
- **Highlighted Items:** Tasks, Decisions, Deferred Items, and Committee Assignments should always be placed at the start of a new paragraph.
 - "**TASK:**" Any tasks assigned – start with the name(s) of who will do it.
 - "**AGREED:**" All group decisions or agreements. *[If you have any doubt about the accuracy or completeness of decisions you've recorded, interrupt the facilitator and ask for verification.]*
 - "**COOLER:**" Items to come back during the course of the current set of mtgs
 - "**FREEZER:**" Items that will come back only at a later meeting
 - "**COMMITTEE:**" Names of committee members – list first (and underline) the name of the person responsible for convening the committee. DO NOT use "and" before the last name.
- **Content:** Try to capture full flow of discussion, recording speakers' names only where it seems pertinent. *[Note: some recorders prefer to capture all names when first recording, then during the edit process, eliminate the unneeded references.]*
- **Standard Abbreviations:**

Administrative Committee = AC
 board = bd
 committee = cmtee
 Communities Directory = Dir
 Communities magazine = Cmag
 communities = cmties
 community = cmtty
 intentional community = ic
 meeting = mtg