

Proposal by Corcoran GROWS requesting to join the CNO

CNO Board approved April 2010

Corcoran GROWS

Corcoran GROWS is a new offshoot of the Transition Town Movement.

Most people in Corcoran have seen pictures of the effects of climate change, struggled with gas prices, heard about the Pacific trash gyre, or struggled with environmental toxins like arsenic and the health challenges they produce.

Corcoran GROWS is a group of concerned neighbors who believe tough environmental problems can be addressed by our neighborhood coming together to learn, share, and support one another.

In order to accomplish our goals, we are using the Transition Town framework and its 12 step process. Transition Town is an environmental movement started in England to create global change neighborhood by neighborhood.

Corcoran has the skills, the knowledge, and ability to change itself for the better. And we want to help make that happen.

Whether it is organizing family play dates, connecting local farmers to buyers or supporting local green businesses, bring people together to live more sustainable, healthy, and happier lives is what Corcoran GROWS is all about!

Every Transition Town begins with 5 initial steps:

1. Form a non-democratic steering group which eventually transitions to a democratic process. Becoming a subcommittee of CNO is how we intend to make Corcoran GROWS fully democratic and open and transparent to all residents.
2. Begin to raise awareness about peak oil, climate change, and the need for pro-active planning and increased community resilience. (The victory gardens of WWII did not just happen because gardens are fun. They were done to cope with rationing and shortages. We emphasize the fun, but plan for the shortages.)
3. Lay the foundations by forming partnerships and alliances with the existing groups in the neighborhood. Joining CNO is an important part of this laying the foundation effort.
4. Organize a Great Unleashing. Transition Towns is founded on the concept that our neighborhoods have the skills and ability within them to create a more resilient and

sustainable society. And they "unleash" these abilities by bringing them together in a fair like atmosphere similar to the Resource Fair we sponsored in February.

5. Form working groups around specific subject topics.

Purpose and Goals

Our purpose is to build the resilience of the Corcoran Neighborhood to the stresses of peak oil and climate change through community engagement, education, and connecting neighbors with each other.

Corcoran GROWS seeks to become a Standing Committee of CNO as we see this transition to sustainability happening over many years.

Our goals are to:

Educate each other about global resource depletion by sharing our knowledge, skills, and resources at the local level.

Advocate for personal and collective actions that sustain and improve life for present and future generations.

Rejuvenate relationships with ourselves, our neighbors and the land.

Chair Person Election

The CNO Board shall appoint the first Chair. After the first Chair's annual term is done, Corcoran GROWS will nominate a member to be approved by the CNO Board. (CNO Bylaws Article VIII) Chairs may be nominated for multiple terms. The Chair will chair the monthly Corcoran GROWS organizational meeting and will sit on the CNO Board and act as a liaison between Corcoran GROWS and the Board.

Corcoran GROWS will nominate a Vice Chair. The Corcoran GROWS Vice Chair will chair the monthly Corcoran GROWS Outreach meeting.

Criteria for Membership in Corcoran GROWS

Any person who can prove they are a resident of Corcoran is eligible to become a member of Corcoran GROWS and participate in meetings. Members may vote on meeting resolutions and the election of the Corcoran GROWS Chair and vice Chair. (This follows from CNO Bylaws Article III).

Non-residents, or other interested individuals are welcome to attend meetings and ask the chair for time to speak. But they may not vote. They are also welcome to participate in working groups as non-voting members.

Corcoran GROWS Meeting Structure and Schedule

Corcoran GROWS has two meetings a month. The first meeting is the Organizational Meeting and it will meet on the third Thursday evening of the month. This meeting will focus on internal group organization, newsletter, web site, deepening / training GROWS leadership, and connecting to CNO.

The second is the Outreach Meeting that would happen on the 1st Saturday each month. This meeting will focus on connecting to other groups in Corcoran and would hear reports back from working groups.

Both meetings are open to the public. Agenda will be posted a week in advance. And notes will be posted and given to CNO afterwards. The first hour of the meeting will be run formally via Roberts Rules of Order, Revised (CNO Bylaws Article X). The second hour will be informal Open Space time, where members can propose topics and gather interested others into discussion. The second hour is also a time for new individuals to speak with members about joining.

CNO Staff Liaison

Amy Arcand will be the staff liaison between Corcoran GROWS and CNO on matters of policy. Eric Gustafson will be the Liaison about articles going into the Advocate. Amy Behrens will be the liaison on matters pertaining to the Midtown Farmers Market.

Corcoran GROWS Working Groups

Very quickly the amount of decision making needed will outrun the 2 short monthly meetings. We will allow the formation of working groups that will focus on a specific topic or event. (Transition Sandpoint had 125 members active in working groups.)

Working groups are formed when a group of members has started to meet and work together regularly and would like official support (event planning help, CNO resources, etc) from Corcoran GROWS. A resolution is submitted to one of the two regular monthly meetings.

The resolution must contain a statement of the groups purpose and the name of the lead contact for the group. Members of the working group, including the working group lead, must attend the monthly meeting when the resolution is submitted to answer questions about the group.

Working group leads must know CNO guidelines and policies, especially how to handle events, when CNO can be asked to pay funds, when to use the CNO logo, etc.

Working group leads need to publish meeting times to the Corcoran GROWS web site so other members can attend. Working group leads will need to provide of meeting notes (short 1-2 page) of working group meetings to keep interested members informed.

(Corcoran GROWS is still working out the details of how working groups will function. And any changes will be created by resolution and passed to the CNO Board for approval.)

The Resolution Process

When a CNO Board Resolution is required:

When a resolution is being passed that changes policy (mission/vision statement, bylaws, change of organization, etc).

To form a working group and appoint its lead (to insure the lead has been trained in CNO policy).

To publicize an event that will have the CNO, or MFM Logo on the publicity.

To spend funds that are managed by CNO.

To contractually obligate CNO in any way.

These resolutions must be passed by the Corcoran GROWS Organizational meeting, or Outreach meeting. They must then be passed to the CNO Board for approval via the GROWS Chair. The resolution must not be acted upon by Corcoran GROWS until the CNO Board has approved the resolution. If a resolution has been rejected, or voted down by the Corcoran GROWS membership, then it cannot be considered again for 3 months.

Resolutions must meet the CNO bylaws and guidelines.

Example Event Resolution:

Corcoran GROWS would like to organize a Winter Resource Fair. A resolution would be put forward to start a working group to plan and execute the event. The resolution would be voted on by one of the CNO meetings. The resolution would be sent to the CNO Board. They would approve the formation of the group. (Or reject the groups formation). The resolution would need to follow the CNO "Guidelines for Community Events".

The group would create a detailed plan for the event, including a budget. This would need to be submitted to the CNO Board for approval or expenses cannot be reimbursed.