

Grant County Beekeepers

Meeting Notes

13 February 2019

In attendance: 15 beekeepers and "friends of bees."

Meeting start time: 6:05 P.M.

General discussion and announcements:

The following is a synopsis of the discussions held at our February 2019 meeting. Items won't necessarily be in the order that they were discussed, but are presented in a manner to improve readability.

- Grant County Beekeepers (GCB) president, Ken Sexton opened our February 2019 meeting by introducing GCB's new leadership group. This was done for the benefit of several people who were first time attendees. He also presented his proposed agenda for the evening.
- With spring quickly approaching, much time was spent discussing beekeeper preparations for the upcoming season. Most items presented were for the benefit of new/inexperienced beekeepers as well as those with a higher level of experience. Items covered include;
 - Ordering bees for spring delivery
 - Bee packages. Three pounds of bees with a queen.
 - Nucleus hives (nucs). Four to five frames of brood, pollen & honey with approximately three pounds of bees, and an established queen.
 - Complete full sized hives. Eight or ten frame Langstroth hive box with fully established colony of bees, with established queen.
 - Pros & cons of each choice were discussed.
 - The two types of hives, Langstroth and top bar were discussed, with pros and cons of each type.
 - Capturing bee swarms was presented as another method of obtaining bees.
 - Cheapest method of obtaining honey bees
 - Could be defensive, and may need to be re-queened
 - Spring inspections of hives for problems/disease
 - Inspection of physical hive equipment
 - An exploded view of all parts of a Langstroth hive was presented.
 - Feeding honey bee packages and nucs, as well as waiting until night time temperatures rise to nearly 50 degrees before opening hives discussed. Susan Clair presented sugar syrup ratios for different times of the "bee" season.
- Using donated equipment given to the GCBs, a Langstroth hive will be set up at the Commons. The Commons' new Executive Director, Rafael Garcia checked with their insurance company before committing to taking a hive, and was told that it would have no effect on their rates or coverage. Ken and Rafael surveyed the Commons' property, and selected a spot that will be well protected from wind, will get morning

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sun, and will be less likely to be vandalized. The hive will be assembled by GCB members, and installed this spring. It will be great for the Commons' gardens, and will be used for club mentoring sessions as well as for other teaching opportunities in the community.

- Two YouTube videos were played for attendees. The first was titled ***How to Setup a Beehive***, and the second was ***Swarm Collection***. Links to these videos will be added to our website on a new "How To" page to be added by the end of February.
- It was announced that GCB would be a co-sponsor of a public art project planned for Silver City. It will be a mural titled ***Plants and Pollinators Youth Mural***. It will be 20' x 40', and will be painted on the east wall of the Antiques Mall on the corner of Broadway and Texas. The mural project will be directed by Diana Ingalls Leyba, the director of the youth Mural Program. The mural will be painted by local area youth groups. GCB has committed to raising \$500 to help fund the project.
- Ken recently attended the NMBKA Annual Conference held in Albuquerque on February 1st & 2nd. His presentation at the conference was titled ***To Bee or Not to Bee: Grant County Beekeepers, Growing While Facing a Bee Ordinance***. He reported that his presentation was well received, and that there was a lot of interest in the Notice of Intent (NOI) that would limit/control beekeeping in the town of Silver City. The consensus was that we should not support the NOI in any way. An attorney in the group has offered free legal services to GCB to fight the ordinance.
- Fundraising ideas were discussed, and included having honey cookie sales, creating a beekeeping/pollinator themed calendar to sell, and having donation jars at events that we participate in.
- The town's proposed beekeeping Notice of Intent (NOI), and a second NOI were briefly discussed. There have been no updates to the beekeeping NOI according to Ken. He has tried to contact Lynda Aiman-Smith, Councilor, Silver City District 2, who authored the NOI, but has not received a return call. The second NOI involves changes that will allow Silver City Animal Control more authority to handle nuisance situations involving animals without having to involve Silver City Police. It doesn't appear that this NOI is related to the beekeeping NOI, but will be monitored closely by GCB.
- Kendra Milligan of Grant County Neighborhood Orchards announced that there will be a marigold seed exchange event held at the Javalina Coffee House on March 23rd from 1-4pm. She will have a donation jar at the event to collect money for the Plants and Pollinators Youth Mural.

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- The Paseo Del Norte Beekeepers Association (Las Cruces/El Paso group), will be added as the third sub-group of the NMBKA. They list individual online (free) beekeeping lessons (from PerfectBee.com), equipment, and supplies for sale. Their website is; <https://pdnbeekeepers.org/>
- The "hat" was passed to collect donations to pay the \$35/month fee* charged by the Commons for the use of their meeting area. The money will be used to pay for the cost of our website, and website domain, and for other expenses incurred by our group. The monies collected have been as follows:

February - \$46.00 collected
\$35.00 to the Commons
\$11.00 petty cash

Total petty cash \$23.00 (\$12.00 carryover from January)

*Note: Cost for rental of the Commons' meeting room is based on the number of attendees, and is not a flat rate.

Next meeting- March 13th, at 6:00 P.M.

Beekeeper Meeting Location: The Commons (was The Volunteer Center)- 501 E. 13th St.

The agenda for this meeting will be emailed when available.

We invite everyone to visit our website. Become a member - it's free!
www.grantcountynmbeekeepers.org

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Tom & Barbara

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