

“Most Significant Change” story
Yavapai Community Collaboration
Bob Moore, member of YCC Executive Committee

August 6, 2010

After one year we have already faced transitional challenges, and laid the groundwork for people to understand and accept the transitions in this work. These transitions relate to the level of involvement and commitment that participants can and do make. Community development is rooted in relationships, and our emphasis has been on the essential nature of building relationships. Patience and conscious awareness of the process are crucial elements of developing an effective team to carry the work forward. We began with an emphasis on our core values, and we have persisted in keeping them in front of us. We have engaged in discussions about how we apply these values. The implication has been that we are enhancing our connections to and trust of one another.

The question of sustainability remains... It is a part of our transparent dialogue, with each of us making a conscious choice about our commitments to continue.

September 24, 2010

I sent the announcement for our October meeting and have had several replies. Two are from people interested in continuing to be updated, but are unable to attend the next meeting. One is a confirmation.

At our September meeting Carla Woody, founder of Kenosis, LLC and Kenosis Spirit Keepers, helped us clarify the distinction between ‘Intent’ and ‘Intention.’ The fundamental distinction relates to our ability to clarify our overall design for building community and separate ourselves from particular ways this may manifest. It is about deep commitment and letting go. I continue to focus on acceptance of the gifts that each person brings to our work. I believe we are continuing to engage in a journey that is taking us to deep places – together. Sometimes it seems hard to clearly articulate what that means, and yet we keep coming together. And each time we do, we share our experiences of building community, and learn again why this effort is so important. And yet I wonder about our capacity to sustain... It brings me back to continuing to engage in conversations with people about this work. In the conversations are invitations to join, to connect. It is not about pressure or defined expectation about how to engage. It is simply an invitation to engage. And the work is about empowering people to be active citizens, of our community, our society, and our world.

October 1st – follow-up: I’ve had quite a few emails in response to the meeting notice. There are people engaged in this work!

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October 28, 2010

I attended the Quad Cities Employment Forum today. This meeting is held quarterly by U.S. Vets, inviting various providers of employment services and related assistance accessible to veterans. There was great discussion about recent community events that engaged participants in discussions about collaboration around addressing identified community needs and opportunities for groups to partner to apply for funding and / or explore ways to just work together. I invited the participants to attend the November YCC meeting. There seemed to be significant interest...

Back at the office I leave messages for Tracey and Lori to try and connect about recent developments. Al's continued health challenges leaves us without anyone to carry on the communication with players that might connect through our structure... I find myself carrying the administrative tasks to keep us meeting. Will others step forth in the coming months? Mike Johnson passed along his notes about his presentations for the United Way Community Conversations, needing to step away from an active role with YCC. Next week we will need to decide on our plan of action for the coming months to maintain the structure for our continuing engagement...

November 17, 2010

Lori and I meet today... What's next...? Is it time to take this to another level?

January 6, 2011

At present I continue to host the monthly "Forums" for YCC. We have a small and mighty crew that remains engaged. The idea of integrating with other "coalition" meetings was floated and it is not time to lose the safe environment we have created for deep reflection and engagement that allows us to explore possibilities as we deepen our connections / relationships with one another. Holding ourselves to our values is a "most significant" focus at this point. The answer to the question about moving our efforts to another level has been a clear 'not yet' so far. That may change in the coming months as other things develop...