

Founding Meeting of the Reskilling Guild
April 6, 2019
7:00 - 9:00

After a lovely potluck supper, Patrick opened the meeting with a series of questions about the Reskilling Guild:

What is it?
How does it work?
Where do we do it?
Who is it?

Some answers and discussion followed.

To provide a home for the teachers.
Build a more resourceful (or was it resilient? or both?) community in NE Seattle.

Search for a common goal within the community. A central building point is to be able to take it to every level.

David Pauling said that he has seen several projects similar to the Tool Library in other parts of the country, and he was completely overwhelmed by what the Tool Library has become in such a short time. He also said the he would like to see people be able to convert a hobby to a business.

There was some discussion on why we use the word "guild". Leo pointed out that we are a transition initiative. He sees us as a place to build resilience in the community, a place to let passions bloom, a place for people to get together and share skills. Reskilling is learning the everyday skills that our grandparents used every day.

Keith said that it was essential that the skills live elsewhere: The guild nurtures those that want to learn more and become teachers.

There was some discussion of other guilds in Seattle, but that there wasn't a plumbing guild.

The guild would be a place to look for people who have something to teach, but no place to do so. The guild is about teaching.

Someone asked if we were going to do assets mapping (going out into the community and assess skills to find out what skills and knowledge are available and wanted). Although it was thought that would be a good thing, it was agreed that it might be a little too much for us to tackle in the beginning.

Patrick suggested that our group would find interested participants, teachers, and space.

David Pauling asked if there was a space, say a two car garage, we could use, or some place we can go. He said we need to get physical with what we are doing.

David Johnson said that we need to find places to work; we already have plenty of places to meet. One

possibility was to work in other people's homes.

Marsha (spelled correctly?) brought up the concept of maker spaces where there is space and equipment to work in and with. David P countered that those spaces tend to charge a lot for a little.

Patrick said that we need to be broad in our scope. Joann suggested setting up in someone's garage for teaching.

David J said that we need to organize and outreach, but how?

Keith said that money is an issue.

Joann said that the community center helps to spread the word.

Patrick said that we need to build an identity for ourselves apart from the community centers. David J suggested that we let them, the community centers, do the outreach, and we do the service.

Deb also mentioned money, small dues perhaps, and reaching out to those with less means, such as the poor, the out of work, teens.

Brooke asked if we could give credits to the teachers to use elsewhere; he also suggested a workshop model and possibly a central place (website) for signing up for classes. Leo wanted to keep it simple.

It was suggested that we go to where the resources are, places like community gardens or the community kitchen at the Meadowbrook Community Center. Ask people, like those who are older and looking to downsize, if they would donate equipment, such as sewing machines, to the guild.

A key thing would be to reach out to those who have never heard of Sustainable NE Seattle: Get more people involved and identify them.

Marsha (sp?) suggested connecting with seniors, both for skills and supplies, and Joann mentioned NEST, NE Seattle Together, which enables seniors to stay at home: a volunteer list to help. (I am a little unclear whether the list is for volunteers to help the seniors, or for seniors to be teachers; I kind of think it's the latter, but I'd like clarification.)

Patrick asked us if the date of the next meeting, April 18 is ok and if anyone has ideas for hands on projects for the SusNES member meeting

Leon suggested a skills barter, and Patrick suggested that, although that isn't our primary focus, it would be a fine sideline that we already have the resources for via the signup list that was passed around at the end of the meeting.

It was also suggested that for those that don't want to teach, for whatever reason, could help out in other ways such as helping to develop courses, find venues, etc.