



*Intentional Community,
Eco-village, Co-housing,
RV-Resort, Campgrounds
&
Retreat Center*

Questions and Answers

Future Handbook and guide lines

*Created 6/16/2007; last updated 05/15/2008 by Ruth Thomson-Hathorn
Coral Springs, Florida
tranquilitysway@yahoo.com*

An up-to-date copy of this document will be kept on the World Wide Web at

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Tranquilitys_way

New Information:

"If you're interested in being a part of our planning stages for our IC, please read completely. You can attend meetings, which will be like an advisory board meeting and participate in the decision and discussion of the planning stages only. If you would like to be future Board Member, business partner, investor, or prospective buyer / homeowner. We encourage you to please review this document thoroughly in order to attain an understanding of our deepest desire, so we may live together in harmony".

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Introduction and Background

About us

Tranquility's Way is the evolving reality of a group of family and friends. This reality has been evolving since year 2000. We intend to buy at least 200 acres of land in the SE region of the USA. A part of our plan is to have a Spiritual Retreat Center with cabins, peace gardens, campground and a RV Resort. This will create jobs for the community.

Next will be our Eco-village, organic farm, co-housing development and a Gated Intentional Community with custom built homes on 4 acre and up lots. Note: *(The gated IC is for people that would like more privacy and a quieter atmosphere.)*

A total of six separate projects along with it subsidiaries will be in the works for anyone to head up and take on. Because this project will not materialize until 2011, we have more than enough time to plan and work out the details.

We will be an egalitarian, intergenerational community that welcomes human diversity, ecological sensibility, mutual learning and joy.

We intend to purchase land in either Alabama or Georgia, in the mountains with some incredible views. We want the land to be situated in the rugged highlands where we can have an attractive mix of activities. So that there can be hiking trails that reveal a diversity of wildlife and panoramic views and streams that meander through the property.

Vision Statement

We envision a world, not just this place, of oneness and unification through the process of sustainability and refinement of virtues. Virtues inspired by selfless and compassionate service, developing and maintaining our dreams of harmonious living.

Mission Statement

The mission of the TEVIC is to provide a nurturing environment of peace and tranquility, in a sacred wilderness setting for the renewal of the human spirit in harmony with nature and the environment. Through our programs and hospitality we create opportunities for the personal and spiritual growth of each person who comes to our sacred grounds.

We seek to come together and live in accordance with our love and appreciation of the self within this world. We believe that all people have high and equal opportunity and capacity to love and share a true peaceful living with one another. This is our prime initiative.

We are committed to living in unity and peace, with the community and in the outside world. We respect people of all races, ethnicities, creeds, ages, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, spiritualities and experiences.

We seek to create an intergenerational community in which adults and children can share their lives through creation and the process of remembrance through playing and growing with nurturing and support. We will create together and provide the basic necessities of life to our community, including food, shelter, health care and mutual support. We, means, all who are involved and live in the community.

We are building a diverse rural community that values ecological sustainability, respect and support for children, economic stability, mindfulness, beauty, harmony, simplicity, creativity, music and fun. We aspire to grow strong, long-term connections among members and with the outside community. We continually seek to come together, learn together and teach together as much as possible, unifying our creating and living into a single environment. (*Creating signifies the responsibilities to maintain our living environment*).

Why might I be attracted to this community?

We started planning this community after reading a book "Conversations with God by Neale Donald Walsh" which changed our lives in more ways than one. We wish to be able to live in a way that is in unison with what was discussed in that book and other new age writings. (See list of books in file)

You might be interested in the community if you are interested in:

- Developing through the wonderful challenges of life with a group of like-minded people, and living in peace and unity.
- Living in an ecologically responsible and sustainable way
- Sharing financial responsibility for the basics of life with a group of people, and not having to worry about keeping your job, paying bills, buying a house, etc. but rather share the economic responsibility for the group. *(to be further discussed)*
- Being part of a intergenerational community of people who support and care for one another
- Providing optimal education within a safer and more loving environment in which to raise children
- Co-creating with other people to benefit from pooled effort and resources. There will be retreat Center and opportunities for up to 6 different Business for us all. We are looking into a life style for working, 20 hour workweek. So that you have more time for community and family.
- Our hours of operation will be from 6am to 12 midnight, Quiet hours:- 3pm to 6pm (afternoon siesta) and 12 midnight to 6am.
- Living in a situation where there is equality among individuals and opportunities to live a more fulfilling life
- Having more fulfilling and involved occupation.
- Sharing the same spiritual beliefs with one another, so we may live in harmony.

Do your core values and beliefs match ours?

Intentional communities have a broad range of core values and beliefs. It's probably fair to say that communities that clearly define these goals have a stronger tendency to be successful than communities that don't. Our major goals, belief and values include:

- Providing a safe, challenging, and nurturing environment for children
- Being part of a community where people know, help, and support one another, and where people can come together to do things they couldn't do alone (art, activism, conversation, shared child care, etc.)
- Having shared responsibility for each adult member, and in return being able to ensure that each member has the basic necessities of life (a comfortable place to live, good food, medical attention, clothing and/or a stipend, etc.) and some of the "basic luxuries"
- Putting few or no restrictions on outside income, earning or spending money, etc. as long as a person's basic shared responsibilities are met and a person honors the community's agreements and values.
- Equality among all members, including an equal say in community decisions
- Equality among all people, regardless of race, color, religion or spirituality, sexuality, gender, background, age, etc.
- Ecological responsibility, especially in regard to living in the most beneficial (and non-harmful) way possible
- As much as reasonably possible, living and co-creating together, so that people's lives aren't divided between a workplace community of co-creators and a nights-and-weekends community where they live.
- Encouraging this and other models of intentional community
- Having friendly, active, mutually beneficial relationships with people who live outside the community
- Be willing to attend weekly book studies and educate ourselves. Life is a life long process of remembrance.

Basics of Our Community

Where is Tranquility's Way now? Where will it be located permanently?

TW currently is in the planning stages in Coral Springs, Florida. We are currently looking for future Board Members, business partners, investors, prospective buyers or homeowners for the IC. A group of family and friends is currently meeting bi-monthly and plan to buy approximately 200 acre's in the next 3 years (2010-11) in Alabama or Georgia.

How large will TW be?

In 2010 we intend to acquire the property and get the RV resort and campground going on approximately 30 acres. We will also have 100 areas for land development for a gated IC. Another 20 acres will be dedicated to a retreat center, which will consist of the main lodge, cabins, restaurant, spa, a tea house, meditation gardens. The last section of 50 acres will have an organic farm, school house, gift shops, general store, eco-village and co-housing.

TW is going to grow in stages slowly but can be faster with funding and the right dedicated people. We hope to find a way for more families to join us, yet we want our community to remain small enough to maintain the social structure we envision. Our Investors can help to make Tranquility's Way a lot larger or better in whatever area of our facilities they would like to see expand.

Who's providing this opportunity? How are decisions made?

Initially in the planning stages of the development of the land use, the original owners, will be responsible for planning. Once that is done, we will have a site map for every one to look at. At this point we will turn it over for community involvement.

The short answer is that no single person for the future will be in charge. We use a participatory, inclusive decision-making process that allows everyone to have a voice in major decisions. Specific groups and individuals are given responsibility for smaller decisions and day-to-day administration of particular areas of the community.

The decision-making process we use is called *formal consensus*. Popularly, the word "consensus" is used to mean that everyone gets into a room until they all agree on something. *Formal consensus* is a specific structured process in which a group discusses a proposal until a sense of what to do reemerges from a structured process revolving around identifying and attempting to resolve concerns.

Well-administered formal consensus is efficient, fulfilling, and inclusive, and tends to produce much better solutions than most other forms of decision-making. It will work well for a group like ours, where there is a strong desire to work together and a shared sense of purpose.

Please note that this description of consensus is very broad. There's an excellent document about it available online at

<http://www.ic.org/nica/Process/Consensusbasics.htm>

We would like to use this process and I am sure you will be pleased with the results, in that others have been able to solve contentious issues in a way that addresses everyone's concerns, and in that our proposals will intend to improve from the input of many participants.

What about children?

TW honors, nurtures, challenges, and loves children (and us big kids too). We will have a community school where children can learn both in and out of the classroom, drawing on the skills and experience of the entire community and led by their own personal interests and enthusiasms. A well-stocked learning center is important for children's education. We also have hopes that we will be able to be a support to and a resource for local home-schooling families.

Community parents have the option of deciding how they wish their children to develop educationally, for instance by home schooling, or unschooled in the community school see- <http://www.naturalchild.org/>

or attending a local public or private school--or some combination. However, the community does not pay for outside private schooling. For More information go to:

<http://www.schoolofthenewspirituality.com/>

<http://www.multidimensionaltherapies.com/>

<http://www.naturalchild.org/>

Children have a special status until they become Full Members (if they ever decide to do so). Although the parents will always have primary responsibility, the people co-create together in caring for the children.

Overall, TW children have a great opportunity to participate in life and community responsibility, to spend more time with their parents and to play and learn with other children and caring adults.

What will hold this community together?

One key question for any intentional community is that of "glue": what holds the community together? Our community has the benefit of several kinds of "glue", including:

- Shared values, priorities, goals, spirituality, and study groups.

- Classes for advancement of self and spiritual growth.
- All members completing one whole class on conflict resolution and oneness.
- Individual relationships and friendships, and the support of other community members
- Financial stability and personal financial security (we will attain it)
- Children: To the extent that we are successful in creating a better place and way for children to grow up, we also create a very meaningful reason for parents, grandparents and children to value the community.
- The Land: The specific land and the part of the country that we will have selected will be sufficiently beautiful and powerful to inspire a strong sense of loyalty and love for people who are drawn to Alabama or Georgia.
- Opportunities for creativity, collaboration, and self-expression
- Environment free of smoking or illegal drugs or substances
- Alcohol tolerated in moderation.
- The intention of the individual members

We have found examples of a number of communities that have found several of these points to be effective glue. The only types of stronger glue that have come to our attention are a shared religion, spirituality and/or a charismatic leader.

The essence of community glue is that it acts as a way to preserve the strength and membership of the community in difficult times. Our experience is that, the kind of glue, we have described above--our children's well-being, strong personal relationships, financial stability, a sense of place, peace, unity, our spirituality and meaningful roles--are the kinds of things that keep us involved and committed.

What plans do you have in regard to ecology, sustainability, and the environment?

Living sustainable, and lightly on the earth, are goals we keep in mind every day. We try to make every decision in light of these values. We plan to grow most of our own organic food, and will have a few goats, and cows for milk and cheese and some hens to provide us with eggs.

There are a great many details associated with this kind of approach, many more than we can list here. However, here are some of the goals and practices that we may expect to either start with or develop over time:

- Sustainable agriculture, including perma-culture and organic growing methods. However, our economy will by no means be *based* on agriculture alone.
- Extremely energy-efficient buildings
- Alternative energy sources, for instance solar, small-scale hydro, biodiesel, and/or wind. Either initially or eventually, one goal might be to get "off the grid"; i.e. to produce all of our own energy needs in a sustainable way without reliance on outside energy sources.
- Conducting our daily lives and community businesses in sustainable ways. This includes minimizing use of virgin materials and emphasizing recycling and especially re-use. One of our potential goals is to minimize our waste stream until virtually all of our "waste", whether organic waste or material waste, is re-used, recycled, or discarded benignly (e.g. composting). This kind of effort is likely to include composting, recycling programs, education within and outside the community on materials reuse, creative use of discarded materials (e.g. construction waste, much of which can be used productively instead of being dumped in a landfill), alternative and more ecologically sound building materials and practices, minimum consumption of consumer packaging, alternative wastewater approaches, and other steps.
- Involvement in "spreading the word" about strategies for living more sustainable, for instance participating in drives to help people outside the community learn how to minimize household energy use, promoting alternative energy sources, etc.
- Minimizing the environmental impact of transportation. This includes finding ways to minimize automobile usage in the community without being unnecessarily restrictive, looking to alternative fuels (for instance biodiesel, a substitute diesel fuel which is virtually benign and which can be made out of used cooking oil, normally discarded as waste by restaurants),

- encouraging use of mass transportation for trips to locations far from the community, and so on.
- Individual members of the community, who own automobiles, will be parked by the entrance in the main RV Village parking lot. We will use bicycles, golf carts and electric cars in the Community. We intend to minimize automobile usage, and that the cars we do own are as ecologically sound as we can manage, and that they are used responsibly.

What about religion or spirituality?

We are spiritual not religious. We are totally aligned with the teachings of NDW and other similar Unity or new age thought. We honor all religions, without judgments.

What is the New Spirituality?

The New Spirituality is a way of honoring our natural impulse toward the Divine without making others wrong for the way in which they are doing it. ~ Neale Donald Walsch

This is an interdenominational and non-denominational way of honoring each person's impulse toward the Divine and approach to life, and remembrance is at a core level. It is a way, to peace and fundamentally a "Civil Rights Movement of the Soul."

New Spirituality programs frame this renewed freedom in practical and concrete ways. How? First, by the attitude of love, we see the Divine in you as we see the Divine in ourselves, no matter what the age of the physical body! This fundamentally involves an active and supremely special kind of listening that allows young people an even-playing field to express, create and co-design their lives with their adult leaders. Secondly, our leadership and trainings honor and listen to others, soul-to-soul specifically to support and guide one another's dreams into reality. Last and by no means least or the end of this dialogue, the School of the New Spirituality's teachers and leaders are learners while they are facilitators.

Our community is spiritual. And our planning and principles are guided by our spiritual practices.

What decisions have already been made?

For information on our current agreements, *See agendas and minutes of meetings in our files section.*

General Information on Intentional Communities

What do we mean by "intentional community"?

For many people, the term "intentional community" doesn't ring a bell even though the idea has been in use for thousands of years. In essence, an intentional community is a group of people coming together in a particular place to live in some particular way. The variety of intentional communities is nearly infinite: some are religious, some are not; politics run the gamut; they are large and small, rural and urban, ecologically minded and materialistic. They include monasteries, communes, anarchic squatter houses, cooperative housing, co-housing, kibbutzim, Christian activist communities, Shaker communities, and many other kinds of groups. It's hard to generalize very much from these disparate kinds of living situations.

One of the few things that can be said about most intentional communities across the board is that they are built on a stronger sense of shared purpose and shared lifestyle than is common in a conventional setting. People know each other better, work and/or play together, and in most cases share some values, goals, or beliefs. There are real advantages to living in a place of this kind for people who are interested in being an integral part of their communities.

One option that's becoming increasingly popular is co-housing, where members purchase houses (and sometimes land) individually. Co-housing members also are usually dependent on individual incomes, but share some meals, child care, gardens, and other amenities.

The real power of this idea is the thought that the conventional ways people live in the Western world today are not the only ways to live. For TW, this is attractive because we can build a place where people are supportive rather than dismissive of children; where ecology is a primary focus rather than an afterthought; and where value is placed on people, relationships, and the natural world rather than on money and possessions.

The term "community" is often used as shorthand for "intentional community"; however, this is not meant to imply that intentional communities are the only kind of real community there are, only to help get around the fact that "intentional community" is such a mouthful.

Are intentional communities communes?

Generally speaking; No! The term "commune" can mean many different things, most of which revolve around a shared economy. In this sense, communes are intentional communities, but most intentional communities are *not* communes. Some people associate communes with anarchy, drug use, irresponsibility, lack of financial stability, impermanence, and/or a "hippie" lifestyle. These associations don't apply to most intentional communities, so the term "commune" is often not a helpful one when talking about intentional communities.

Although TW will provide for all of the basic necessities of life, we will not fully share all income, resources, assets, or possessions, and therefore TW is not a commune based on the above definition.

What other intentional communities and options are there?

There are many intentional communities out there, so if ours doesn't appeal to you and you are interested in intentional communities, very likely someone else's will.

Other communities share all income, or live together but have separate incomes. Some are religious; there are particularly a large number of Christian communities, as well as a wide variety of communities with a general spiritual purpose, but no community religion per se. Some communities are dedicated to charity missions; some are specifically for gay men and/or lesbians. Some promote poly-fidelity (group marriage), nudism (a.k.a. "clothes optional"), and/or other specific sexual or personal practices.

One great resource for finding out about intentional communities is the Fellowship for Intentional Community (FIC), which can be found on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.ic.org/>

Are there other communities similar to this one?

I am sure there are. Certainly we will share many individual features with various other communities: things like our ecological values, egalitarianism, consensus process, co-housing design, ecovillage, rural location, and so on. But there are also several features of TEVIC that are rare or unique among intentional communities, for instance:

- *Our economic model.* By and large, most communities are fairly easily categorized into a shared economy (where all income is community income, and individual income is strongly discouraged or not possible) or an individualistic economy (the norm for conventional American living, whereby each nuclear family is responsible for its own economic well-being. In some of these kinds of communities, there may be work requirements or dues for the community). In our economy, each able adult will have roughly six hour a day work requirement, and in exchange for that the community provides all of the things necessary for a

relatively comfortable, fulfilling life within the community's standards. This in itself is not unusual. However, beyond the work requirement, the community does not attempt to legislate how money may be earned, saved, used, or spent by individuals. This gives individuals the freedom to earn and use money for things that the community doesn't provide, such as a trip to Europe, financial support for family members living outside the community, hobbies, equipment for special interests, and so on.

- *TW's gated Intentional Community.* Green custom built homes for families that would like more privacy, for themselves, immediate family and extended family. They will govern themselves with a Homeowners association, and have a membership to TW Retreat Center and its facilities.
- *Our method of formation.* Most of our participants will come to the group through finding it on the Internet, and word of mouth and the Internet will be our main forum for communication until ground breaking. We see this as being only one side of a much more complex community-building process that must also involve, among other things, face-to-face interaction.
- *Our level of planning.* Literally thousands of hours will go into planning TW before we move into a single house. We are committed to being careful and wise about this process and learning as much as we can about both intentional community and basic pragmatic issues as we can in the building stage. Many people have gone before us; we will have much to learn from their triumphs and mistakes.
- *Our uniqueness.* One thing we are quite thrilled about is our utmost desire to become an extremely unique community. Not just another community. We wish to develop a place not just of tranquility, but of sheer amazement and wonder.

Necessities of Living

Does the community supply health care?

Yes. Holistic and traditional

Within limits established by consensus, the community covers 100% of a member's healthcare needs.

The community also has opportunities to benefit the health of members by spreading around information on nutrition, health, and healthful living. We feel that our healthy lifestyle enhances our ability to reduce healthcare costs.

We plan on providing daily activities such as yoga, Pilates and other aerobic and un-aerobic exercises for our guests and community members. Meditational walk and other forms of mental health techniques. We are also actively seeking members who are in these professions including nutrition and other medical and homeopathic skills.

What kinds of housing will be available?

TW's Structure

Gated IC with 4 acre lots and up for green custom built homes

Eco- village,

Co-housing- ownership and rental,

RV-village and campgrounds

Retreat Center with a lodge and cabins

(Details to be further discussed)

Do I need money to buy and build a house?

As an egalitarian community, people from all economic strata are welcome.

People that do not have money can use our work program to buy or rent in our co-housing development.

(To be discussed more.)

see Financial and legal matters also,

What professions are needed in our community?

Green builders all trades, landscapers, organic farmers, office staff, maintenance, restaurant mgr./owner, waiters, waitresses, bus boys, reservations, yoga instructor, spa technicians, fitness instructor, facilitators, notary, mid-wife, healers, reiki masters, reflexologist, homeopathic doctors, accountant/banking, chiropractor, teachers, home schoolers, housekeepers, receptionist, herbalist, cashiers, check-in and marketing, general store clerks, entertainers, grant writer, graphic artist, net worker, computer techs, promoters & many more.

Also looking for a village grandpa and grandma, who has a loving and kind personality to be greeters for guests. All guests are required to park in the main rv-village parking lot. Greeters will meet them with a golf kart and drive them to check -in and cabins with luggage. Guests are encouraged to walk or rent bicycles, or electric vehicles.

Conflict Resolution

See: <http://www.ic.org/pnp/ocac/>

All members of this community are required to take classes in conflict resolution, oneness and truth seminars. Mediation will be offered by a certified facilitator

What if the community fails? What steps will we take to help ensure success?

By beginning the community with a statement of values and goals and instituting membership and agreement processes, we can have some confidence that members share core values, beliefs and goals, and thereby avoid that kind of split. By careful and realistic financial planning, and by diversifying with a variety of community businesses, we can as much as possible ensure financial success. These are some of the ways in which we hope our planning will give us an extra measure of stability and a strong likelihood of long-term success as a community.

We will enlist the services of a qualified lawyer or other legal service, which will draft up documents that will protect both parties in the event that someone wants to sell out or leave. You are encouraged to have your own legal council review our legal documents as well.

It is not possible to consider the community an absolute guarantee of stability. However, we are taking a number of steps to help ensure our success. Someone has compiled a list of factors in the success of intentional communities garnered over the course of a few years. The information in that list is based on observations from members of other communities and histories of past communities that have succeeded and failed. See: <http://creating-a-life-together.org/>

Financial and Legal Matters

Does everyone share all of their income?

No. We would like to suggest a model that has a 6 hour per day work requirement five 4 days each week, also there is shared work and responsibility, but members are free to work more than the requirement to earn additional income within or outside the community.

Our goal with the work requirement is to have a stable, dynamic system in which everyone knows he or she will have all of life's basic necessities (and some "basic luxuries") taken care of in exchange for a set amount of work. We also want people to have the freedom to have additional possessions, to travel, to help support friends or relatives, and do other things with income of their own if they so choose: in other words, to use money in ways that are within community agreements and important to an individual, but too expensive for the community to provide. *In this way a person can choose to live a simpler lifestyle and not have to work as much, or alternatively can work more and have more things.* We do wish to have a lifestyle that doesn't foster the habit of ever-increasing consumption that is common in the West today. At the same time, we recognize that everyone has different needs, and do not wish to dictate the specifics of how a person must live as long as we can all agree on some basic guidelines.

The community's economic state will play an important role in determining what kind of work, can be done for additional income at any given time, as well as the size of the work requirement.

Barter system, food exchange, or service exchange. We are open to and welcome suggestions and ideas about how we may go about organizing our community to manage the responsibilities.

How do people make a living? Where do they work, and what do they do?

First of all we would prefer that everyone worked here. But, there are two primary ways in which we make our living. The first is working in community businesses to generate income, and the second is doing things the community needs done to reduce the need for cash and take care of basic daily needs.

Two other options are working outside the community (see the section below, "What if I want to keep a regular outside job?") and working in community businesses for private income. Individuals or small groups may run businesses or some other private for-profit activity on community grounds. A fifth possibility is working on an activity funded by an outside grant, which would also bring income into the community. Grant-based work to further a cause important to an individual or a community as a whole is very much consonant with our values and plans, but we expect to need to do substantial groundwork if we hope to do any of this kind of work.

We have discussed whether or not there might not be business opportunities that contribute to ecological sustainability, and are actively interested in pursuing these kinds of avenues.

We're also enthusiastic about some other ideas, for example perma culture based businesses (heritage seeds, growing herbs/roots/mushrooms) a café/gathering place/ a retreat center/conference center/general stores/ spa/craft market/ expanding our community school to include children from outside our community, etc. These businesses are only some of the possibilities.

The businesses the community chooses to pursue are chosen based on criteria that will include the following:

- Are the jobs the business would create desirable jobs for community members? Are there members who actively want to work in this kind of business?

- Do we have the right mix of skills to successfully pursue this business, or can we learn them?
- Does the business fit in with our goals and values? That is, does it at least not compromise our values, and at best further them?
- Is the business idea one that can reliably produce income and sustain jobs?
- Does the business have good income potential?
- Is the business suited to being run from our kind of community?
- Are there any collateral benefits the business brings to TW and/or the surrounding area?
- Are the capital requirements modest enough that we can afford to start the business properly?
- Does the business take good advantage of the skills and resources the community already has?

Some businesses might exist outside the physical community. One of the benefits of this kind of business is the relationships it helps to cultivate with the people who live in the surrounding area. Businesses that exist outside the community still contribute to relationships among community members because they work together in a setting that is an extended part of the community, in addition to bringing the community in closer contact with its neighbors.

Additionally, a great deal of work is needed for the community itself. This might include working for the Retreat Center, tending gardens and/or livestock; building houses and other structures; managing energy, water, and waste; cooking; maintaining and repairing buildings and equipment; managing community finances, taxes, and the like; maintaining community institutions, like a community website or giving tours to our eco-village; health care; administrating the work system; and so on. We will develop a carefully-balanced work requirement policy that is to be further discussed.

A modest additional chore requirement is part of the overall work requirement and is designed to involve all community members in regular cleaning and upkeep tasks, rather than relying on a few individuals to do all of this kind of work. All adult members and older children have a chore requirement.

What if I want to keep a regular outside job or a private business?

One premise of the community that is that most or all members will work entirely within the community or its businesses. We aren't trying to form the kind of community where everyone must fend for him- or herself and find a job in the area, and are actively developing community businesses to ensure that there is enough work to bring in the cash necessary to run the community and provide for our needs.

In certain limited circumstances, some community members might work within or outside the community on their own endeavors. We would prefer that in the case of a couple that at least one spouse works within the community. This kind of arrangement to some extent runs contrary to the intent of the community; however, we recognize that in some cases an outside job or private business has an important meaning to the person who performs it, and/or an important value to the larger community.

Since this kind of arrangement cannot replace the entire work requirement-that is, since we require a minimum level of work within the community-an individual working outside the community typically might have a heavy work schedule (full-time outside job plus smaller in-community work requirement plus small chore requirement), but will regularly be earning significant money for his or her own use.

Keep in mind that the practice of substituting some outside income for some of the work requirement is an unusual exception to our practice. Both the basic policy and the fact that the whole work requirement cannot be replaced by an outside job or private business are based on the idea that a community that is as integral as TW involves people working together every day to form the sense and strength of a village rather than the more limited connections available in a commuting lifestyle. This kind of exception also is based on the importance of the work to the individual or to others, not on income. By this policy we are only expressing our own goals and values in this area. We are not implying that working outside a community

isn't a perfectly valid way to live one's life, only that it is not our choice of a lifestyle. (This is open for further discussion)

Do I have to have money to invest?

Naturally this question is greatly simplified if a person can lend money to the community, but there will certainly be members who cannot lend and this is something we actively support; we would take on prospective members who were not able to lend, but would bring in a well needed skill or talent.

Member loans are secured as a loan to the community entity, a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), which owns equipment, land, buildings, and businesses. With this approach, a lender can have some assurance that s/he will be able to get money back in some way should s/he ever leave the community or need the money, although there are limitations on the timing and manner of "cashing out". By offering this opportunity for members to have some security for their community loan, we have sufficient loans from those members who can, to cover the necessities for members who can't lend without placing any member in undo financial danger. A community member who lends money does not have any more influence over community decisions, even those directly affecting that loan, than a non-lending community member.

(To be further discussed)

Who owns the land and buildings?

(Open for discussion)

In addition to houses, there are community common spaces, including a community dining room where meals are available every day. Many members will have their own kitchens as well, to use when they desire as an alternative to the community kitchen. The community will also

have other community spaces as needed, for instance space for businesses, arts, carpentry and auto shops, the community library, etc.

Most of the land will be kept in a wild state; housing and other buildings will tend to be clustered to minimize impact on the environment, to keep costs reasonable, and to facilitate a feeling of community.

What is the legal form of the community?

TEVIC will be a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP). The decision to take this form was based recommendations in the book "**Creating a life together** by Diana leafe Christian" in light of our community goals and values. An LLP allows us to own the community cooperatively while limiting the prerogatives of ownership to remain within community agreements. It prevents a community legal battle from encroaching on members' private funds, and otherwise meets our requirements. Full members of the community are partners in the LLP.

The community will at some point develop a non-profit organization that covers some of our not-for-profit activities.

Note: open for further discussion

Membership

How does a person become a member?

The membership process is geared toward helping both the community and the individual or group applying for membership to understand each other, as fully as possible. From starting as a provisional member to becoming a permanent Full Member takes eighteen months of community residence, plus whatever time the individual or family takes to initially explore the community without yet applying for membership. All community members, including the original founders,

go through this process of trial membership and consensus discussion of each new membership stage.

Most membership benefits (food, housing, etc.) kick in immediately on being accepted as a "Seeker" (a visitor who is investigating membership by a trial stay at TW). A few longer-term benefits (e.g. health insurance and covering health care costs) kick in once the person or family is accepted as an "Interim Member", i.e. after the two-month Seekership, if consensus is reached on continuing. All earlier membership levels have the same rights in our consensus process as Full Members, except that only Full Members may block a consensus decision.

Membership in the community involves explicit acceptance of all community agreements, consensus agreement among current community members on admission of the new member to each new membership stage, a financial and pragmatic review to ensure that it is possible to take on the new member at a given time, a clearness committee that discusses the member's feelings and concerns about membership, and signing legal documents to become part of the partnership. The successful culmination of a membership process is admission as a Full Member, with the celebration that step deserves.

Members who violate community agreements can be expelled by consensus agreement of the rest of the community. A provisional membership can be cut short if it's clear that it isn't working out, again by consensus.

The stages of membership are

Status	How long?
Visitor	n/a
Seeker	Two month
Interim Member	Four months
Transitional Member	One year
Full Member	Permanent

We consider membership to be a serious commitment, and feel that a thoughtful and well-planned membership process prevents many potential problems from ever occurring. Our membership process will be available online.

The first step in considering membership will be to visit, and from there the process is one of gradual commitment as the individual gets to know the rest of the community and vice-versa.

When inquiring about a visit, please keep in mind that we will have a heavy work schedule and that this is our home, so first please do not ask to visit at this time unless you feel strongly interested in considering membership; also, please understand our limitations (for instance, work commitments) when we do have visitors. (This applies to eco-village and co-housing only)

Are there any limitations on having pets?

As a group, we're conscious of how important the relationship is between many people and their pets, and we do our best to be supportive of that. For example, a dog that barks a lot or chews on furniture or jumps up on people might be a non-issue for some members and a serious problem for others, for instance members who might be allergic to dogs or who might have a child who's frightened by such an animal or who are unhappy to see toys, furniture, and other things destroyed.

Other issues arise with some kinds of pets--even having a gerbil raises the question of confining animals in an environment that is not very similar to their natural habitat.

So in striking the best balance we can manage between these two priorities (supporting people who have or want pets on the one hand and supporting people for whom pets are problematic on the other hand, remembering that the same people may be on both ends of the issue.

But at the same time we will, "try for yes" on decisions about accepting pets to TW, because we understand the love and joy that can often come from relationships between humans and pets. Furthermore, we also need to understand that a controlled non-free animal may not be a practice that we would consider appropriate.

Note: *Open for futher disscussion*

Can you tell me a little bit about the people who will be involved?

The ages of our group range from birth to the very aged. Inter-generational. We hope to have a lot of diversity, with multicultural and all ethnic back grounds.

With the mix of talents and skills at TW, it's important to know that what skills a person possesses are explicitly *not* a part of the membership evaluation process. Our feeling is that a person who is willing and able to help sustain the community can learn a set of useful skills if necessary. We consider the motivation and cooperative spirit that go into living at TW to be more valuable than existing skills.

Just as important as sharing goals and values, is having a group of people who enjoy each other's company and feeling enthusiastic about living and co-creating together. Although we often find, that these two go hand in hand. Certainly they will be for us.

This FAQ is maintained by TW, and is the product of a number of participants' discussion and work. This is a living document subject to change. We welcome questions from anyone interested in the community or its ideas, and any member of our group can submit proposed changes and additions.

All topics are open for discussion and highly considered. We appreciate all points of view, including contrasting points of view which

make the discussion challenging and interesting. We would like to thank you for reading this and considering us as a part of your future.

We are one!

Community is for communication

Co-creation is co-participating consciously with the laws or patterns of the Creator; conscious alignment with the essence of self, others and nature. A conscious co-creator is one who surrenders and aligns their will with the intention of Creation, the universal mind, the designing intelligence, Spirit; one who shares their gifts and actualizes their dreams in synergistic play with other co-creators to bring forth a new world.