

Community Garden Meeting March 19, 2013

Meeting led by Attica Scott, Councilperson District 1

20 people in attendance

Introductions

Core committee update

Since there is not much soil on the site, raised beds will be used. 32 beds will be at the standard height (8 inches) and 6 will be higher (24 inches) for easier access.

Arrangements have been made to bring in soil.

A draft of the garden use agreement is available to review and will be sent to the group via email.

Fence is ready to be ordered; takes about 3 weeks to get here and 2 days to install.

The plumber has sent a written process for having the water line installed and a PR person at the Louisville Water Company has provided a list of people to contact that may help speed up the process.

All preparation is currently on track.

Beds will be \$10/year for a space 4' x 10' x 8" (or 24")

Fence is aluminum that looks like wrought iron.

Lock expert recommended combination lock (probably with a word combo); still working on specifics.

The Corridor Improvement Project is improving lighting in the corridor and will provide lights for the garden.

A part-time garden manager will be selected. Until then, the core committee is the governing body.

Question: How many beds can you have? (Asked in regard to providing beds for local schools and kids groups.)

Beds can be reserved for group projects. Also, there are plans for a kids' garden and a communal herb garden.

No pets will be allowed in the garden.

Planning on having an area for cooking demos so kids can visit and learn how to use the veg they grow in the garden. Also will have a picnic area for community events.

The garden use agreement will need to address if this will be an organic vs. non-organic garden.

The core committee will make this decision. Wayne Long (Cooperative Extension) added that even in organic gardens, some chemicals are approved for use. Both the Extension Office and UofL can provide resources and educational materials about this.

Core committee will also address if you can fence your bed or have supportive structures for tomatoes, etc. The lease with the city will also stipulate some of these issues.

Question: Can you share a bed?

The garden use agreement has a place for primary and secondary gardener. A tertiary gardener can also be added.

The garden use agreement will be ready to distribute on the build day, 4/13/13.

Funding

Mini-grants from Healthy Hometown Initiative are due 4/5. Funds will be distributed in July so they would not be available immediately. Wayne Long (Cooperative Extension) said that they can partner with groups to apply for this grant, which has a ceiling of \$250,000. It would be best if an established community organization applied for this.

House next door to the garden looks bad, with siding coming off, etc. (2743 Dumesnil Avenue)

Core group has found out who the owner is and will work on having them get the house cleaned up.

Build Day 4/13/13

Starts at 10 am with cleaning up of lot.

Confirmed help: YouthBuild, 2nd Division Police, Glory Youth Ministries, NC3.

We want West Louisville to be represented on the Build Day, which is also the first day of the Mayor's Give a Day Week. This is about the community coming together.

NC3 is coordinating the STOMP (door to door) on 4/2 and 4/3 then again on 4/10 and 4/11.

They will knock on doors, hand out fliers, start conversations about food justice.

Working on fliers to hand out. One attendee said that they have found door hangers to be particularly effective.

A volunteer artist in attendance was given a grant for a nearby project that will turn a vacant house into a work of art. Part of her grant requires that she communicate with the surrounding community about what she's doing. She will include our Build Day info in her email to local residents.

Timeline

Fence in by 4/1. Lumber, beds, compost, topsoil from EarthFirst in Indiana (all provided by Cooperative Extension) will be staged at the east end of the property.

Build Day on 4/13 followed by debriefing within a week after the build to evaluate what we missed, what still needs to be done, and if more beds need to be added. (Concept plan has room for 50 beds.)

It would be much better to have a bobcat than having to use wheelbarrows and shovels to move dirt into beds. We need to find someone to rent us one or donate the use of one...also need someone to use it.

The issue of an additional safety factor was raised.

The fence will be 4' high. Does it need barbed wire on the top of it? The core committee will take up this issue at their next meeting.

More about funding:

The Extension Office may be able to provide some additional funding (in addition to the materials they are already providing).

For Build Day:

Need free DJ

Need local business to donate fruit and veg. (Ari said Whole Foods will do this for community events that involve gardens.)

Donna Sanders working on banners.

Question: What will be the hours of the garden?

Currently, the garden use agreement says dawn to dusk.

Question: To whom does the signed garden use agreement go?

Will eventually go the garden manager but for now the core committee.

Next community meeting will be Monday 4/1 at 6 pm at Calvary Baptist Church. Bring a friend!

Next core committee meeting will be Tuesday 3/26 at 3 pm at Metro Council.