

College Area Community Garden

A Project of the College Neighborhoods Foundation

Monthly Meeting Minutes Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014 SDSU's Children's Center

Meeting Facilitator: Henry Bertram

Attendees: Henry Bertram, Ellen Bevier, Glen Brandenburg, Annie Foral, Pat McGann, Mark Miner, Gabe Mitchell

I. Call to order at 5:15 pm. Sign-in sheet was circulated.

II. Minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014 meeting.

III. New Business

1. Henry introduced the topic of leasing trees in the CACG orchard. A student is interested in selecting, helping plant and tending such a tree, to be planted in the Cheung section of the garden. Henry noted the choice of tree would have to be in line with the Cheung's request that exotic/tropical fruits be included in the orchard,

The board concluded that such arrangement would require that the person take out a basic membership of \$50 a year. The garden membership document would have to be signed and renewed yearly, but there would be no monthly garden payment. The tree lessee also would have to sign the liability release and gardener's rules.

The tree to be planted would have to have been organically grown and after planting be nurtured along organic principles. CACG Vice President Gabe Mitchell, who oversees the orchard, would supervise the tree and the lessee.

2. Additional new business regarding the orchard came up later in the meeting from Mark Miner, who proposed adding a lychee to the CACG's fruit tree collection. The lychee (*Litchi chinensis*) is an Asian tree that bears oval fruit having a "hard scaly reddish outer covering and sweet whitish edible flesh that surrounds a single large seed" according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary. The dried fruit is called a lychee nut.

IV. Current Topics/Issues

1. Administration & Finance Reports

a. Secretary's Report: communications, reports received/sent. Ellen Bevier
-- We've developed standard information letters to respond to queries to the CACG website.
-- We obtained a KUSI clip about the CACG open house through Parker News Service so it could be posted on the website.
-- We have arranged with the College-Rolando branch library to place a display about the CACG in the lobby throughout February. We need to have it ready to show to the librarians by the last week of January. Our goal is to attract new members and gardeners.

b. Treasurer's Report
Annie Foral reported on CACG's year-to-date amounts.
-- Inflow = \$31,216
-- Outflow = \$26,561
-- Balance = \$4,654

i. Annie, Henry and James Miyazawa (College Neighborhood Foundation treasurer) are working to reconcile the CACG's inception-to-date numbers.

c. Grants and fund raising

i. Henry said CACG has submitted to the county paperwork documenting that 100 percent of the county's 2013-14 grant earmarked to buy lumber for garden boxes has been spent. This means we can now apply for a new \$7,500 grant for 2014-15.

ii. We are seeking a new City of San Diego grant in 2014-15 for to pay for \$9,200 in unfunded projects.

iii. A delivery of Kellogg soil products on Nov. 7 will complete the company's most recent donation pledge. The cumulative donation total should be updated on the website.

iv. January is the application period for a San Diego Foundation grant for community garden projects. Our application will seek \$7,500 to \$10,000 to complete specific items in the garden.

2. Garden infrastructure, construction, maintenance

a. Update on construction.

i. Glen said 94 garden boxes have been built and put in place. In this first stage of the garden's construction, we hope to have 105 boxes built.

ii. Glen acquired an electric tiller that helps fluff up the soil being placed in the garden boxes. It comes out of the bags tightly packed and must be aerated to make it ready for planting.

iii. Filling a 4 x 8 box takes 6 big and three little bags of soil. We also mix in organic powdered fertilizer and some bagged manure.

iv. We need to make a modest start on the rainwater-capture system and build from there.

v. Compost bin structures have been built, but still need finishing touches.

b. Status report on vines and orchard.

i. Gabe talked about setting up a fungicide program for the orchard in the dormant month of January.

ii. Mark said grape leaves would begin to brown in November. He was happy that so far there has been no mildew. One of the vines seems a little weak. Mark may replace that one with another cultivar. When it comes time to cut back the vines, Mark will need 4 to 5 helpers.

3. Committee or other reports

a. Membership news: There was a brief discussion of making garden boxes more affordable to students and others by allowing them to pay monthly rather than in one lump sum.

b. Many organizations renew memberships by automatic debits on credit cards. Can we do that?

c. Time ran out and it was decided to continue the discussion on becoming a 501c3 nonprofit during the November meeting.

d. Work parties are planned for Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 15-16.

V. Closing

1. The CACG board's next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 at 5:15 p.m.

2. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

11/16/14 eb