

Community Gardens

Community Gardens Interest Group (CGIG)

Minutes for CGIG Meeting 2/29/12 6:00-7:30 PM, SDSU Scripps Cottage

1. Call to Order (6:05 p.m.)

- a. Approval of Minutes from 1/23/12 meeting.
- b. Attendance
Guests: Judy Jacoby, Community Garden Coordinator; Robin Judd, Director, SDSU Children's Center.
Present: Henry Bertram, Luiza Savchuk, Marguerite Mauritz, David Larom, Nicholas Posse, Gabe Mitchell, Kristian Salgado, Pat McGann, Sally Ellis

2. Current Business

- a. Updates from site walk through of "Hidden Valley" location
 1. Hidden Valley is our first choice.
 2. Plenty of space. Some relatively flat, some sloping areas. Terracing possible?
 3. Water is likely available. Pursue a private meter set-up thru SDSU physical plant.
 4. Electricity also likely available (see existing parking lot lighting). Same as a.3 above.
 5. Alternate locations include area next to fraternity/sororities on Montezuma, and maybe Adobe Falls (Right across the 8 Freeway @ either side of College Av.). Probable presence of toxins from vehicles on freeway.
- b. Share findings of resources we have researched
 1. Looking at different outlets for funding. Including Associated Students (SDSU), Children's Center, fundraising, Rotary club, Greenovation grant, home depot grant etc...
 2. The idea that no one faction claims the Garden as their own, but as a group.
 3. Check out Seattle, WA gardens, they have an excellent system.
 4. Henry will go to the group CACC on March 14th, as well as get the support of the CVEA, and city council support.
 5. Continue looking for resources and networking. Fundraising events to expand our network as well as creates money for funding.
- c. How should we start our efforts?
 - Step 1:** Get home owners approval; send letter to the home owners. Lease agreement documents are available.
 - Step 2:** Is it a feasible site? Soil tests OK? ; water available? Garden site OK with codes and regulations?
 - Step 3:** Plan for the Garden; governance, who can use? fundraising, rules of use, construction, maintenance, insurance, etc. (Most steps can be researched and planned concurrently)
- d. Judy Jacoby's feedback for the homeowners draft letter-
 1. We want to know if the homeowners are doing anything else with the land, (go to city council and to make an incentive to use land as a community garden).
 2. The fire department has been citing people for weeds; this is a big incentive for homeowners for us to take care of that task.
 3. Mention that we don't need their water, there will be liability insurance provided as well.
 4. Mention that the garden could increase property value to entice potential renters and lease owners.
 5. Should we say that we will give food away? Will this entice homeowners??

e. **Judy's suggested resources:**

1. Community garden education group: access this by going to resources on the website, click Gardening 201 and toolkit—this link has samples of templates for leases, permits, end plan etc....(sdgcn.org).
2. Get students from campus to soil test the area, and find out history of the land (SDSU has researched this already ask Dan C, Physical Plant, or similar group)
3. Have Judy include us in her network. Garden outreach.

f. **Discuss proposed Statement of Purpose/Goals (Marguerite M.)**

1. Add the word “food” into the garden goals.
2. Make sure the garden is aesthetically pleasing.

g. **Garden planning**

1. Might have a shed. Possibly obtain a used metal “cargo container”. Paint our names and a mural of donors (get art department to design and help paint).
2. Suggest a “water bottle” passive light for the shed, bring in electricity. Also, use electric tools, NO gasoline tools or use on site at any time.
3. Living fence (plants growing through plastic bottles as a fence for our garden). Might consider 4x4 wood posts for stability. (Nicholas Posse looking into this). Include an edible vine!!

3. **New Business**

a. New topics, proposals

1. Hardy elementary (on Montezuma) The PTA is starting a garden. Get in contact with them and coordinate efforts. (Henry)

4. **Closing**

a. Establish next CGIG meeting date/time

1. To be March 21st at the SDSU Children’s Center at 6 PM (Robin Judd)

b. Assignments prior to next meeting

1. Complete work on letter to homeowners; identify affected land owners using Google earth image of plots and City/County records

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted 3/4/12, L.Savchuk