

# College Area Community Garden

## *Monthly Meeting Minutes*

Wednesday, April 18, 2012  
6:00 to 7:15 p.m.

**Meeting Facilitator(s):** Henry Bertram & Luiza Savchuk, Co-Chairs

**Attendees:** R. Aihara, S. Ellis, G. Mitchell, R. Judd, P. McGann, M. Mauritz, G. Brandenburg, A. Wolf, H. Bertram, L. Savchuk, P. Murphy

- I. **Call to order by Henry Bertram:** sign in sheet circulated.
- II. **Approval of minutes:** Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 3-12-12 by Robin Judd, seconded by Sally Ellis.
- III. **Open issues**

1. Update on communications

- a. **Progress with homeowner contacts.**

We have three tentative 'YES' pledges to date: 5308 East Falls View, 6244 Adobe Dr, and 6240 Adobe Dr. A fourth property of interest to us is at 5312 West Falls View, and is currently empty. We're continuing attempts to contact that owner. Property manager for 6240 states that he wants to be compensated for the use of the land, and might consider a 2 year lease for a garden if we pay some \$\$\$. It is not clear he is speaking for the owners as shown on the deed (Jennifer Poppleton). Henry informed him that we are a non-profit organization that currently has no funding, but fully expects to have operating funds soon. As representatives for the CACG, neither Robin nor Henry made any verbal or written promises to homeowners regarding possible payments for leasing rights. (Henry & Robin).

- b. **Possible support from local and other groups?**

Eagle Scouts (Henry) have expressed interest in helping clear the land and continuing assistance as needed. Also, Hardy Elementary students and their parents might be available to help. Possible funding sources: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) (Federal funding), Union Bank Trust, American Gardening Association, more TBD

- c. **Finalize "benefits to homeowners" list.**

Additional points: 1) Weed control which prevents fines, 2) Not having homeowners responsible for cost of utilities of the garden, 3) No liability insurance costs for homeowners, 4) Good for property value in the future. More TBD

- d. **Report of landscape designer/architect contacts.**

Group of students interested to do it as a project (Gabe). KTUA, official landscapers for SDSU (Glen). Revolution Architects are another option (Marguerite).

**e. Review & formalize Mission Statement.**

Will soon be circulated by email for discussion and suggestions (Luiza).

2. "Hidden Valley" site discussion

**a. Who to perform soils testing?**

Waiting for permission to do soils tests. (Marguerite, others) S.E.R.G. (Soil, Ecology, and Restoration Group) as a potential contact for mitigation. Contact Tom and Anthony (Marguerite).

**b. Search for existing EIR (with sensitive lands assessments) reports.**

MTS may have an EIR plan done for Trolley Extension work at SDSU (Pat). Contacting the City of San Diego to determine if they have an EIR on record. SD City Fire department may have documents. S.E.R.G. (Soil, Ecology, and Restoration Group) as a potential contact for mitigation. Contact Tom and Anthony (Marguerite). Time concern for Sensitive Land Assessment completion since it needs to be done before sensitive plants go dormant or are out of season. We have verbal permission from residence at 5308 East Falls View to take soil samples and do Sensitive Lands assessments. Robin to obtain their written permission so Marguerite can proceed ASAP.

**c. Site history information search.**

Henry researched records available from City of San Diego Development Services. Streets, utilities and homes in immediate area were probably built in the 1950's. Information prior to 1955 is scarce. Glen has seen aerial photos of pre-SDSU days (ca. 1930's) showing large areas of open and undisturbed land. Henry to contact Ken Kramer for possible sources of info. San Diego Historical Society is another possibility. Also can check SDSU library for photos or more information about the site. Issues are: type and amount of non-natural materials in soil such as construction debris, old dumps, and toxic materials in the soil? SDSU professor Seth Mallios is writing a historical book about the SDSU area. Robin will contact Seth. New soil tests will give us much needed information about existing conditions and soil composition in order to refer to our efforts as "organic" garden.

**d. Water availability.**

Pressurized water available at SDSU Children's Center. Robin and Glen think it's a viable source for CACG. Henry would like to see a meter on the water line so we can track usage and properly compensate SDSU. Also, need to find out if a separate potential source, a nearby SDSU landscape Dept. water line, is pressurized full time and at least ¾: diameter. Gabe is pursuing that info.

**e. Establish contact with SDSU Physical Plant Director, John Ferris**

Henry to contact Mr. Ferris.

**f. "Living Fence" example (Nicholas).**

Tabled until next meeting.

**g. Name Change.**

**'College Area Community Garden'** name approved by majority yes vote; all but one member in attendance. Name change now in effect.

## IV. New business

### 1. Groups & Organizations

SDSU Good Neighbor program is being contacted by Morgan & Luiza. Chanelle McNutt's cultural student organization contacted by Luiza & Kristian. Glenn reports that Prof. David Larom has proposed an Aztec Garden outside of the Cuic Dining Hall.

### 2. Fundraising ideas

What are the fundraising failures and successes from already established community gardens? Google community garden funding, or community garden grants for more resources. The SDSU Research Foundation offers grant writing workshops. The personal factor is very important to remember with the funders. Already established 'Seeds' from City College throw fundraisers at farm to table restaurants.

### 3. Creating our website.

Ben is interested in creating a website (Robin). Henry will contact a local professional web developer to determine if she will do pro bono work. Patrick has offered a live website within clube3.org. The coming CACG website should also be linked to the existing San Diego Community Gardens website.

### 4. Greywater collection and use

Glen suggested the possibility of collecting greywater (excluding "black water" from toilets) from nearby homeowners. As a state licensed general contractor responsible for knowing and following codes and regulations, Henry noted that greywater is NOT allowed for use in watering edible fruits and vegetables under current S.D. County Health Department rules. However, there might be a provision that allows its use only as a separately labeled source for *non-edible* plants. We should consider collecting homeowner's *rain water* from rain gutters and downspouts and storing it in large water tanks for on-demand use via low pressure gravity fed water lines. This water source could be a very viable supplement to "city" water available via SDSU

## V. Closing

1. **Calendar date for next meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the SDSU Children's Center.
2. **Adjourn meeting.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.