

College Area Community Garden

A Project of the College Neighborhoods Foundation (a 501c3 org.)

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 29, 2014
SDSU Children's Center, 6:00 to 7:49 p.m.

Meeting Facilitator: Henry Bertram

Attendees: Henry Bertram, Ellen Bevier, Glen Brandenburg, Morgan Chan, Robin Judd, Nancy Kavanagh, Brett Keller, Pat McGann, Angela Mariscal, Mark Miner, Chris Pearson, Renee Vallely, Alicia Wolf.

A. Call to Order at 6:00 pm. Sign-in sheet was circulated.

B. Motion to Accept Minutes from December 3 meeting with no adjustments was made by Nancy Kavanagh, approved.

C. Current Issues

1. Administration & Finance Reports

- a) Secretary's Report – Robin Judd had no new report on communications received/sent, noting that she would like to discuss with Henry a protocol for sending thank-you letters by USPS, versus emailed thank-you notes Alicia Wolf placed CACG paid membership numbers at 10 or 11. Henry said a membership push is coming.
- b) Treasurer's Report – CACG's balance in its College Neighborhood Foundation account is \$1,450. Much of the \$37,000 raised to date has been spent on garden infrastructure. This is half of what is needed for full start-up in the first year.

Alicia discussed options for creating a running list of in-kind donations and their use for the garden. She is building an accounting system to track this information. The other possibility would be to buy a database financial package.

c) Grants and Fundraising. Cumulative report provided by Henry.

- i. SDG&E Environmental Champions Grant, \$25,000 – Jointly awarded to CACG/Urban Corps for materials and labor.
 - ii. City of S.D. – Councilwoman Marti Emerald's office donated \$5,000.
 - iii. County of S.D. – Supervisor Dianne Jacob's office did not make a grant. CACG will work to improve communications with her office and try again in 2014.
 - iv. Metropolitan Water District (based in Los Angeles) made a grant of \$2,000. It is to be used for an educational project on water reuse by the end of April 2014.
 - v. In recent months donations of materials, equipment and labor have come from Armstrong, Kellogg, Hunter valves and Edco disposal services, among others. There have also been some private donations. There were no new donations to report for January from private or business donors.
 - vi. CACG sought but did not receive an SDSU President's Leadership Award.
- d) Robin -- praised by Henry for her helpfulness, organization and consistency as board secretary -- needs time for other responsibilities. She will continue to be involved with CACG, but not as secretary. Ellen Bevier was appointed as interim board secretary until elections occur at the end of 2014.

2. Garden upgrades, infrastructure, construction

- a. Glen Brandenburg and Henry recapped the progress made since Dec. 3. After two years of planning and preparation, the first raised beds will be ready to plant soon. A quarter of the boxes, made of market-grade redwood, have been constructed by Urban Corps workers under Glen and Henry's supervision. Seven were ready to be installed as of 1/29. Total cost of each box, depending on size (4 x 8 or 4 x 4) was \$150 and \$110, Glen said future box costs would be less because CACG already has the needed hardware. He estimated wood costs of the boxes are \$70 and \$45 respectively.
- b. Glen arrived with four citrus trees to get the orchard started, A property owner's decision to expand the land he is making available to CACG – by about a quarter of an acre – will make this possible at the north end of the garden on a rise near the Children's Center. CACG Vice President Gabe Mitchell is working on this expansion. CACG is also talking with Candace Vanderhoff about collaborating in a grant application to the San Diego Womens Foundation to support a rainwater/graywater collection system that could be used to irrigate the trees.

2. Website

- a. Nancy reported that the meeting minutes are on the website. There was a suggestion from Mark Miner that the garden map be presented in a fixed form on the site, rather than being part of a rotating slideshow.

3. SDSU Sustainability Day, Wednesday, March 5, 2014

- a. CACG will participate with a volunteer-staffed table and displays. Morgan Chan gave an update on the Go Green event. The idea of accepting money for memberships there might not be permitted under university policies, but CACG can hand out info cards to let prospective members know how to join the organization. Possible giveaways at the table might be free fruit, or seed packets, in addition to information sheets. Henry has some photo displays in the works that can be used. It would be helpful to have some easels there. We have many pictures of SDSU students volunteering on CACG work parties.

4. Next Work Party

- a. To keep momentum, there was discussion of another work party. Setting a date is complicated by other events competing for volunteers' attention. These include:
 - 3/15 Explore SDSU day.
 - 3/31 to 4/4. Campus closed for Chavez holiday, followed by spring recess.
 - 4/20 Easter weekend.
 - 4/21 to 4/25. Green Fest at SDSU. (Earth Day is 4/22.)
 - 4/27 Earth Fair at Balboa Park.
 - 5/9-5/15. Final exams
 - 5/16-18. Graduation.

Nancy will check to see if CACG might be able to have a table at Explore SDSU Day. This seems unlikely because it is a crowded event. Robin noted that the Children's Center will be open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day. CACG will have volunteers working in the garden available to talk to interested people.

This also prompted a discussion of when to have the garden's grand opening. April 5 was floated as a possibility, but it was noted many SDSU students will not be back on campus because it is the last weekend of spring recess.

Morgan Chan should be alerted as soon as a date is chosen so she can check on SDSU President Elliot Hirshman's availability.

A list of dignitaries and garden supporters who should receive special invitations should be created.

IV. New Business

1. Should there be a lottery to allocate the raised beds? Half the garden plots will go to SDSU folk—students, staff and faculty. The others are intended for College Area and Roland residents. The protocol for a lottery was discussed. Paid CACG members would be first in line. Questions were raised about whether lottery winners would be able to choose any available plot or be assigned plots from a numbered list.

2. Potential new grant through S.D. Horticultural Society/Candace Vanderhoof is referenced in item 2.b.

3. Angela Mariscal suggested CACG create a Facebook page to promote the garden. Nancy said material could come from the web site, but someone would need to take on monitoring the Facebook page. Pictures taken of

the garden and work parties could be featured on the page, especially those showing student volunteers from SDSU. . That suggestion prompted a question about whether the liability release volunteers sign includes permission to use their images. The documents might have to be modified. There was also a question about identifying volunteers by name.

4. Ways to raise donations for the garden were suggested by Nancy and Renee Vallely. Nancy produced material about offering memorial plaque and bench opportunities. Renee noticed the website did not explain how to donate at a higher level than basic membership. Marti Emerald's representative, Chris Pearson, observed that the garden has progressed so much that getting possible donors to visit in person might inspire some giving.

5. Mark Miner is interested in establishing a small vineyard within the garden to use in teaching viticulture and classical languages, such as Latin. He has some vines planted on the UCSD campus and would like to do the same at SDSU. He and Henry planned to look at the garden site and see if there is a spot where this could work and whether Mark and his supporters could afford the monthly lease fee of 50-cents a square foot for the space he would need.

V. Closing

1. Calendar date for next regular meeting was suggested as Wednesday, Feb.19 at 6 p.m. Robin will be absent but she will arrange for the use of the meeting room at the Children's Center
2. Adjournment by Henry Bertram was at 7:49 p.m.

2-7-14 eb