

# College Area Community Garden

*A Project of the College Neighborhoods Foundation*

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2014**

**SDSU Children's Center, 6:09 to 7:40 p.m.**

**Meeting Facilitator:** Henry Bertram

**Attendees:** Mel Bartholomew, Henry Bertram, Ellen Bevier, Glen Brandenburg, David Larom, Brett D. Kehler, Pat McGann, Mark Miner, Jon Wiedle

**I. Call to Order** at 6:09 p.m. Sign-in sheet was circulated.

**II. Motion to Accept Minutes** from January 29 meeting with no adjustments was made by Pat McGann, and approved. (Brett Kehler's name was misspelled.)

### **III. Guest Speaker**

1. Mel Bartholomew, president and founder of the Square Foot Gardening Foundation ([www.squarefootgardening.org](http://www.squarefootgardening.org)), now based in La Jolla.

Mel developed his square-foot approach to organic, home gardening in the 1970s and published the first of his best-selling books in 1981. A civil engineer who had taken up gardening at age 42 after retiring, he came to question the logic of home gardeners emulating large-scale agriculture by planting in rows. He devised a system of planting in 4-foot by 4-foot raised beds filled with a mixture of compost, peat moss and vermiculite. Using a grid, he divided each box into square-foot plots, planting 1, 4, 9 or 16 seeds in each, depending on a plant's space needs. He mixed vegetables, herbs and flowers in his small plots. His goal was to reduce garden care and create a more productive, well-kept garden. Mel taught his techniques through numerous books, televised gardening shows, publications and training courses. Mel also suggested that our upcoming CACG work parties could be filmed for a possible future televised news report tying our work to archive footage about the SFG system seen on KPBS-TV many decades ago.

Through his non-profit foundation, Mel has adapted his approach for other cultures and countries, converting it to square-meter gardening. He introduced Square Foot Gardening to the CACG group in a talk and video presentation at the start of the meeting. Later in the meeting there was a discussion with Mel about how his ideas might be part of the garden, perhaps through training or using Square Foot Gardening certified teachers. For a start, two of his books were purchased and will be added to the CACG reference library.

### **IV. Current Topics/Issues**

#### **1. Administration and Finance Reports**

a. Secretary's Report: none

b. Treasurer's Report: Henry reported two new paid memberships, which go directly to the College Neighborhoods Foundation, which handles CACG funds.

c. Grants and Fundraising updates

- i and ii. No thing new on SDG&E and San Diego grants, now mostly spent.
- iii. Henry and others are working to design a display demonstrating methods of catching water for reuse. It may be a moveable display. CACG has a deadline of May to have it built and in use to meet the terms of the Metropolitan Water District's \$2,000 grant.
- iv. No news about other private or business donors.
- v. New \$4,000 grant sought from Subaru to create an outdoor classroom in the garden; further discussions by Henry with county Supervisor Dianne Jacob's staff to get CACG on her radar for future grant consideration; CACG working with Candace Vanderhoff about collaborating in a grant application to the San Diego Women's Foundation for using a rainwater/greywater collection system to irrigate CACG's new orchard area.

**2. Garden upgrades, infrastructure, construction**

- a. Glen Brandenburg recapped the work done. He noted that while the Urban Corps was a great help, their success required major involvement by both Henry and Glen.
- b. CACG Vice President Gabe Mitchell and his father were preparing the site for a dozen donated fruit trees that were to be planted over the weekend of Feb. 21-23.

**3. Website**

- a. The CACG website is being updated by Nancy Kavanaugh when time is available.

**4. CACG has been invited** to participate in several public events with an information table, where we hope to recruit new CACG members.

- a. March 5, SDSU Student Union Open House. (Jordan Wells, Morgan Chan)
- b. March 15, Explore@SDSU Open House.
- c. March 30, Rolando Street Fair. (Henry)
- d. April 17, Road to Wellness event at SDSU. (Brett Kehler)

**5. Next Work Party**

Henry reported that about 35 people have signed up to help during the March 1 work party. Pads for planter boxes will be leveled, boxes positioned and soil added, etc.

**V. New Business**

- 1. Further discussion of how to allocate garden boxes, which will be labeled with a number. Henry talked about an Internet-based random number generator for holding a lottery that would decide members' ranking to choose an available planter box.
- 2. David Larom asked about how the research area for faculty using the garden for projects will be designated. Henry said there was space toward the rear of the garden that had not yet been allocated.
- 3. Mark Miner presented a 14-page proposal for the grape vines he would like to add to the garden. The CACG board voted that the idea of the grapes is consistent with the garden's goals but still requires more discussion regarding total area to be planted with grape vines and fees to be paid by grape growers. Henry said we need to talk to the property owners about how they would feel about Mark's proposal for planting grapes up near their back fences. In the meantime Mark proposed putting in four plants near, but not planted on, the CACG/SDSU shared chain link fence.

**VI. Closing**

- 1. Next CACG meeting will be Wednesday, March 26.
- 2. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

2/25/2014 eb