

# College Area Community Garden

A Project of the College Neighborhoods Foundation

## Monthly Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 30, 2014 SDSU's Children's Center

**Meeting Facilitator:** Henry Bertram

**Attendees:** Henry Bertram, Ellen Bevier, Annie Foral, Robin Judd, Nancy Kavanaugh, Brett Kehler, Pat McGann, Chris Pearson, Alicia Wolf

**I. Call to order at 6:05 pm.** Sign-in sheet was circulated.

**II. Motion to Accept Minutes** from March 26, 2014 made and approved.

### III. Current Topics/Issues

#### 1. Administration & Finance Reports

- a. Secretary's Report: communications & reports received/sent. Ellen sent thank-you notes.
- b. Budget report (Henry)
  - \$1,980 in CNF account
- c. Grants and fund-raising updates (Henry)
  - i. Henry summarized CACG's history to date of grant awards (see past months' minutes).
  - ii. News from the County of San Diego. Supervisor Diane Jacob has earmarked \$5,000 for the garden, to be spent 100 percent on materials for and construction of more redwood planter boxes. Box building will be a focus of the May 10 Work Party.
  - iii. A 9-month extension for completion of a portable educational display about capturing residential rainwater runoff has been approved by the Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles, which had given the CACG a \$2,000 grant for this project.
  - iv. Other grant applications.
    - The CACG is still in the running for a Subaru auto company grant that would be used to help build the garden's outdoor classroom facility.
    - AS Greenfest might help with funding the garden's rain catchment system.
    - Kellogg, which donated two pallets of organic compost mix to the garden earlier this year, might be willing to consider a further donation. The company needs a formal proposal. Robin Judd has been the CACG's contact person with Kellogg.
  - v. Seeds of Change. CACG did not make it into the group of 50 projects to be considered for a Seeds of Change grant. Inclusion was dependent on the number of votes logged at a Seeds of Change website on behalf of CACG. Henry speculated that the winning groups ran highly organized and computerized voting campaigns.
  - vi. Local businessman and College Area BID chairman Paul Russo has made a \$1,000 donation to the CACG. The BID itself has become a CACG member and has donated \$200.

#### 2. Garden upgrades, infrastructure, construction

- a. Henry reported that all 36 planter boxes have been installed in the garden. A May 10 Work Party would focus on building more boxes, filling existing boxes with soil mix and placing weed cloth covered with mulch in the aisles.
- b. Status report on CACG orchard. Henry reported that Gabe Mitchell has planted 12 trees, with 4 more waiting to go in. The property owners have asked for some exotic fruit trees. Gabe and Henry will coordinate with them to see which fruits they have in mind.
- c. The soil mix being used in the planter beds is a combination of Kellogg's organic compost and the elements of Mel's Mix.
- d. A water meter has been installed at the Children's Center to monitor the CACG's use of water and then bill the garden for it. Glen Brandenburg has been working on calculating the CACG's future rate of water use.

### **3. Additional reports**

a. Website committee (Nancy Kavanaugh and Remy Serrano)

-- We want to add logos to the website (and the CACG garden banner) to recognize major donors of cash and in-kind services to the garden – considered to be those who have given \$1,000 or more. An asterisk with an explanation of in-kind donations will be added. These categories would define donor lists.

\$4,999 and above

\$1,000 - \$4,998

\$500 - \$999

\$100 - \$499

\$0 - \$99

-- Brett Kehler suggested highlighting on the website the projects that still need funding. He said fund-raising should look 100 to 200 years out by establishing a garden legacy fund.

b. Work Parties.

-- May 10, with a group from College Avenue Baptist Church

-- May 24, with the Mission Continues, a veterans group (since delayed).

-- June 7, a general work party that will be publicly advertised. One key group participating will be volunteers from the American Language Institute at SDSU.

### **4. Report on Plot Leases**

Henry reported that there have been 6 leases, with one or two pending.

## **IV. New Business**

### **1. New membership committee suggested.**

Now that the garden is ready to recruit new members and begin leasing plots in earnest, Henry suggested the CACG begin a membership drive and corral all the information associated with membership. This includes the application and annual membership payments.

-- Henry said member Annie Foral has expressed a willingness to take this on.

-- With plot leasing starting, we also need a system for tracking those annual payments and applications. Ellen noted that every plot will have record keeping associated with it. There was a discussion of how to organize that.

-- The discussion expanded to the CACG's treasurer position, now being handled by Alicia Wolf, who has let Henry know that she no longer has time to juggle the post along with her professional responsibilities. Alicia has created an Access database for CACG and has been coordinating with the College Neighborhoods Foundation, which is the CACG's fiscal sponsor.

-- Annie said she is comfortable using Access and would be willing to take on the treasurer role, too. Henry said he would arrange for the transition between Annie and Alicia. He thanked Alicia for all she has done to help bring the garden to life.

### **2. Garden Open House.**

-- The date of Saturday, Sept. 13, was chosen for the morning event, which will celebrate the progress of the garden. "Save the date" notes will be sent out to key guests.

### **3. Mulch**

Pat McGann said the quality of the CACG-generated mulch is a bit rough and asked about free mulch from the Miramar landfill. Henry noted that the Miramar material can only be acquired by the pick-up-truck load and CACG needs a huge amount. The SDSU grounds department has indicated it might be willing to share its mulch. Henry said it is important to know the contents of the mulch so we don't import invasive weed seeds into the garden.

## **V. Closing**

1. The CACG board will meet next on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 .

2. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

5/16/14 eb