

# College Area Community Garden

A Project of the College Neighborhoods Foundation

## Monthly Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 28, 2014 SDSU's Children's Center

**Meeting Facilitator:** Henry Bertram

**Attendees:** Henry Bertram, Ellen Bevier, Glen Brandenburg, Annie Foral, Robin Judd, Nancy Kavanaugh, Pat McGann, Chris Pearson

**I. Call to order at 6:00 pm.** Sign-in sheet was circulated.

**II. Motion to Accept Minutes** from April 30, 2014 made and approved.

### III. Current Topics/Issues

#### 1. Administration & Finance Reports

a. Secretary's Report: communications & reports received/sent. Thank-you notes sent to Krauel Family and College Avenue Baptist Church.

b. Budget report (Annie and Henry)

-- Annie was waiting on the database transfer from Alicia Wolf for the treasurer records.

Henry hoped that would happen in the following 7 days.

-- Balance of \$9,716 in CNF savings account. Most of that money has been allocated.

c. Grants and fund-raising updates (Henry)

i. Henry summarized CACG's history of grant awards.

ii. With a new fiscal year starting, CACG has been encouraged to apply in June for a second community grant via Council member Marti Emerald's office. If approved, the money would be available after July 23. The CACG received \$5,000 in 2013-2014.

iii. 55 percent of the \$5,000 grant County Supervisor Diane Jacob allocated for materials to build more redwood planter boxes has been spent.

iii. Henry and Glen expect a portable educational display about capturing residential rainwater runoff for irrigation will be built this summer. This is funded by a \$2,000 grant from the Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles.

iv. Other grant applications.

-- No news about the CACG's grant application to the Subaru auto company for help building an outdoor classroom.

-- The Associated Students graphics department is helping with the proposal being prepared for Kellogg's as CACG seeks an additional donation of Kellogg's organic compost, which is an important element of the CACG soil mix.

-- Robin Judd is including the CACG in an application to the La Victoria food company for a school-related grant supporting projects that serve multi-age populations.

v. Francesca and Roger Krauel of San Diego have made a private donation of \$1,000 to the CACG.

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

a. Glen Brandenburg and Henry said the volunteers from College Avenue Baptist Church at the May 10 Work Party did "an amazing job." Volunteers built 20 more redwood planter boxes. They also put down mulch to cover the walkways.

b. A work party scheduled for June 7 with volunteers from the American Language Institute at SDSU will add hardware cloth to the boxes, set them in place and then add the CACG soil mix.

b. Glen and Henry said the soil mix seems to hold moisture very well. It does form a top crust, however, which must be broken down before irrigating.

c. The water supply to the garden is now fully automated and available during daylight hours only.

- d. CACG vice president Gabe Mitchell has completed planting an orchard of 16 fruit trees.
- e. Henry and Glen have found space for some extra garden boxes.
- f. An equipment box will be set up with some basic tools so gardeners can use them when working their plots.
- g. Glen provided pony packs of organic vegetables for some demonstration plots. Glen, Henry, Pat McGann and Ellen did the planting after the meeting.

### **3. Committee or other reports**

- a. Membership status. Unclear without the database. The estimate was 20-25 paid members.
- b. Website committee. Nancy Kavanaugh said the "Donor Thank-you" page being created is awaiting content. This began a discussion about whether donors should be acknowledged for their cumulative gifts over time. Some large donors may give just once while others will give modestly but steadily over a long period. How should that be addressed?
- c. Work Parties.
  - June 7, a general work party, with a major infusion of volunteers from the American Language Institute at SDSU.
  - Volunteers may be hard to attract during hot summer vacation period.
- d/e. California Higher Education Sustainability Conference at SDSU will include CACG docent-led tours of garden on June 17 and a farm-to-table dinner staged in the garden on June 18.
- f. Garden Open House Sept.13. SDSU president; AS president, AS executive director and SD Council member Marti Emerald have already RSVP'd.
  - Displays will include IDs for native vegetation on the site; signage for self-guided tours; graphics of garden map, photographs showing progress of site, etc. A banner with the CACG tomato logo might be set up to serve as a backdrop for photos. We will need a Work Party in late August to prepare the garden for this major event.
- g. Plot lease status. Henry said 5 had been leased or were promised. 2 were being undertaken by AS outdoor recreation group. The board voted to allocate one 4 x 8 plot to Jose Gonzalez of GMS for his efforts on behalf of the garden.
  - The discussion turned to how to get the word out that leases are now available. Our web site; emails to our supporters and interested parties; try to get on faculty and staff news letters; campus media and through Green Love for students; posters at College-Rolando Library; notices through BID, CACC, local homeowners groups and the Rolando and El Cerrito councils; school/PTA announcements; local internet networks, such as nextdoor.com. and Facebook.

### **IV. New Business.**

- 1. July work party unlikely.
- 2. No CACG board meeting in July.
- 3. CACG board election should take place in January 2015. Two or three months beforehand the board will discuss a slate of nominees.
- 4. Best news of all. Robin Judd successfully worked out an agreement with SDSU parking authorities to make use of the "drop off" parking spaces on the east side of the Children's Center parking lot citation-free for garden users from 5 p.m. until dusk on weekdays and during daylight on weekends. CACG will still pay to use additional SDSU parking spaces during special events, such as the Sept. 13 open house.
- 5. Is there a way to promote CACG or community gardens in general at the San Diego County Fair's horticultural show in 2015?

### **V. Closing**

- 1. The CACG board will meet next on Wednesday, June 25, 2014.
- 2. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

5/21/14 eb