

College Area Community Garden

A Project of the College Neighborhoods Foundation

Monthly Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 25, 2014 SDSU's Children's Center

Meeting Facilitator: Henry Bertram

Attendees: Henry Bertram, Ellen Bevier, Glen Brandenburg, Annie Foral, Robin Judd, Brett Kehler, Pat McGann, Gabe Mitchell

I. Call to order at 6:03 pm. Sign-in sheet was circulated.

II. Motion to Accept Minutes from May 28, 2014 made and approved.

III. Current Topics/Issues

1. Administration & Finance Reports

- a. Secretary's Report: communications & reports received/sent. Nothing of significance.
- b. Budget report (Annie and Henry)
 - Funds estimated at \$3,500 to \$4,200. About \$1,700 to \$1,800 of that was in County money restricted to garden box construction only. \$2,000 is from Metropolitan Water District for educational display about water conservation. Another \$2,500 is due from City of San Diego to fulfill its grant after it receives documentation of CACG expenditures.
- c. Grants and fund-raising updates (Henry)
 - i. CACG will be applying for new round of San Diego City and County grants after start of new fiscal year on July 1, 2014.
 - ii. No word on Subaru grant application to help pay for the outdoor classroom.

2. Garden upgrades, infrastructure, construction

- a. So far, 56 garden boxes have been built and put in place. 36 had been filled with soil and 20 remained to be filled. The boxes are 4x4s and 4x8s.
- b. Remaining wood in storage will build another ten 4x8 boxes. There is room for more 4x4 boxes north of the central access road.
- c. In addition to leased boxes that have been planted, CACG has planted several demonstration, or "admin," boxes.
- c. The water supply to the garden is now fully automated and available during daylight hours, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Annie mentioned having a problem with one of the hose bibs.
- d. Henry and Glen were going to make our first water-meter reading after the meeting so that Robin could report it to SDSU, which in turn will bill CACG for the cost of the water.
- e. Gabe Mitchell raised the idea of getting a better quality of weed-barrier cloth to place under the boxes and mulch in hopes of restraining the aggressive "Bermuda" weeds.
- f. The orchard is flourishing. Henry reported enjoying our first heirloom variety white nectarine, one step ahead of the birds that were going after it. We have yet to reach the orchard plot's property owners to see what trees they would like to see added to it.
- g. Cobbles were removed from the fruit tree holes, but little other amending was done, as the trees need to adjust to the native soil. Gabe has been adding gypsum to loosen up the clay soil and cause it to drain better. Gabe also discussed fertilizing the trees by dousing the soil and leaves with liquid kelp extract.
- h. The grape vines must not become attached to the SDSU fence. We might make a trellis for them by sinking a 4x4 post into concrete at each end of the line and stringing it with wire.

3. Committee or other reports

a. Membership status. 19 paid members.

-- We discussed ways to get the word out that the garden is open for business. The Sept.13 open house is a big opportunity.

-- Pat McGann placed "carrot" flyers created by Quentin at the College-Rolando Library.

-- Henry was pursuing articles in campus and alumni newsletters.

-- We discussed ways to reach students during campus orientation, or via Facebook, Greek system, Access TV. Promoting CACG website. Community calendars.

-- We also discussed how to make cost of garden lease less intimidating to students by letting them pay on a monthly basis rather than in one lump sum of \$146 or \$242 a year. Also by letting groups of students share a plot, as long as one of them has their name on the lease.

b. Website committee. Nancy Kavanaugh was not at the meeting. Henry said it was coming along and recommended people have a look at it.

c. Work Parties.

-- Big push scheduled for Aug. 23 to get the garden ready for the Sept.13 open house after the start of the fall semester at SDSU.

-- [Not discussed at the meeting, but worth noting here, was a July 19 mini-work party Henry convened on short notice to install more planter boxes, rake weeds and move soil/materials.]

d/e. California Higher Education Sustainability Conference at SDSU included 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. Only invited speaker we have not heard from is Mayor Kevin Faulconer. Glen was going to try a reminder to his staff.

-- We will start Aug. 23 pre-Open House work party early in day due to summer heat.

-- We hope to have composter set up in time for Open House.

-- Gabe reminded us that having posters around the site highlighting "wish list" items that we have yet to raise money for would be a good idea.

-- [Not discussed at the meeting but worth noting here: Henry convened a planning meeting for the Open House on July 8.]

g. Plot lease status. Trying to get the word out. See item 3a above.

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IV. New Business.

1. CACG board election should take place in January 2015. Two or three months beforehand the board will discuss a slate of nominees.

2. 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.

V. Closing

1. The CACG board will meet next on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014.

2. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

8/8/14 eb

See following page for summary and notes about July 8 planning meeting for Sept.13 Open house.

Special Planning Meeting for Sept.13 Open House, convened by Henry Bertram, 4:30 p.m. July 8, SDSU Children's Center

Attendees: Henry Bertram, Ellen Bevier, Glen Brandenburg, Annie Foral, Robin Judd, Pat McGann, Gabe Mitchell

HOPED For ATTENDANCE: 200?

LAYOUT: Henry showed a sketch of the event's layout.

- The speaker's stand and a canopy for honored guests will be to the left of the garden shed.
- Seating will be in two blocks in front of the dais.
- There will be a welcome table to the right as you enter the main gate.
- Refreshment stations will be in the area between the garden shed and the garden boxes.
- There may also be an info table near the grape vines and orchard.

PARKING:

- We will reserve the spaces directly in front of the garden for VIPs, and mark those spots with cones bearing their names.
- We will pay \$140 for parking permits to the Children's Center lot for the public.
- We will encourage those attending who have SDSU parking permits to park in the lot above the Children's lot and use the stairway to reach the garden.
- We will have parking lot attendants to direct traffic.

SPEAKERS: We have acceptances from all invited guest speakers.

- Borrow PA system?

SIGNAGE:

- Our CACG banners on the fence and the shed (?)
- Green bunting to dress up the fence?
- Signs to identify the fruit trees and grapes?
- Signs to identify our Native Plant preserve.
- Signs to highlight "wish list" items we still need funding to create.
- Normal CACG directional signs to the site and the restrooms.

DISPLAYS and INFO TABLES:

- Welcome/info table near the front gates. Place for new members to signup and pay?
- Info table near the orchard and vines.?
- Newly revised Garden map.
- Website information.
- Photo displays of before and after and various work parties?
- Major display about what should be planted in the fall for a glorious San Diego winter/spring harvests. We need to emphasize the year-round advantages of vegetable gardening in San Diego County. Guidance on that from SD County Master Gardeners?
- Display to promote SDSU Children's Center and CSA box program.
- Display to promote town-gown cooperation to create the garden? Associated Students, University, campus researchers, campus neighborhoods, community groups like College Neighborhoods Foundation, College Area BID and College Area Community Council and homeowners groups.?
- What about Mel, the Square foot gardening guy?

REFRESHMENTS:

- water from McDonald's and compostable cups from Smart and Final.
- organic fruit and veggies?
- Blue, black and green trash cans.

ANYTHING SPECIAL TO ENTERTAIN OR CORRAL KIDS?

Volunteers in yellow vests?

eb/8-9-2014