

College Area Community Garden

A Project of the College Neighborhoods Foundation

Monthly Meeting Minutes Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 SDSU's Children's Center

Meeting Facilitator: Henry Bertram

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

I. Call to order at 5:15 pm. Sign-in sheet was circulated.

II. Minutes A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014 meeting.

III. New Business

1. 2015 CACG Board Nomination/Election

Henry described his proposal for conducting this process electronically by e-mail after a board committee comes up with a slate and garden members have had an opportunity to put themselves forward for board positions. He expressed the hope that existing board members would serve again.

Once the nominees are established, all paid-up garden members during 2014 would be eligible to vote by e-mail sent to the board secretary. Henry's time frame is during the SDSU holiday and winter break.

2. Composting presentation was delayed until a later meeting.

IV. Current Topics/Issues

1. Committee or other reports

a. Secretary's correspondence report (Ellen Bevier)

E-mail letters responding to inquiries about the garden, membership or volunteering were sent to Warren Digal, Andrew Yap, Nora Dennehy, Lauren Ybarra, Alexandra Hightower, Mark Becker, Amada Klinkenberg, Alex Franco, Josh Liggan, Mike Sills, Kelilah Federman. Thank you notes were being prepared for J. Cole, Christina Brown, Judy Jacoby, Ricardo Flores.

b. Treasurer's report (Annie Foral)

-- Annie, Henry and James Miyazawa (College Neighborhoods Foundation treasurer) are still working to reconcile the CACG's inception-to-date numbers.

-- No budget update for this meeting. Last balance report was \$4,654.

c. Grants and fund raising

i. We are seeking a new City of San Diego grant in 2014-15 to pay for \$9,200 in infrastructure. Henry said indications from Council member Marti Emerald's office look positive, pending Council approval.

ii Henry said CACG is preparing a \$12,250 grant application to the County of San Diego within its 2014-2015 fiscal year (September to September). Word may come in the spring.

iii. The \$10,000 Presidential Leadership Fund Grant earmarked for the CACG and announced by SDSU President Elliot Hirshman in September is working its way through the administrative process. It carries no restrictions and will go into the CACG general fund.

iv. Henry plans to approach the San Diego Foundation with a grant application after Jan. 1, 2015.

d. There will be one October and possibly three November work parties.

e. New members or gardeners:

i. Discussion touched on events to draw people to the garden, build a list of prospective members, and do more student and community outreach.

ii. Henry said Carmen Huerta, an SDSU journalism student and reporter for KCR radio, is willing to help update CACG's Facebook page.

f. Garden memberships need to be organized within a January-through-December calendar year. New memberships should be pro-rated, so they, too, will be synchronized with the calendar year. This will make it easier to remind members when it is time for them to renew and track that activity.

-- Henry said he hopes a new member will be willing to oversee membership records.

g. There was a discussion of billing for garden boxes on a monthly basis, rather than in one lump sum, which may be discouraging some prospective gardeners. Perhaps \$10 a month for a 4 x 4 box, automatically paid by credit card.

h. There was also discussion of how to reward board members for their time. The result was a proposal to assess board members a flat membership fee of \$50 and give them free use of a garden box for a year. Robin Judd moved to adopt that; Gabe Mitchell seconded and there was a unanimous vote of support.

i. Update on construction.

-- Glen said 105 garden boxes have been built and put in place, including an elevated box designed for someone with a disability.

-- He said we need about 70 more bags of garden mix, approximately 2 more pallets.

-- We need more storage space.

-- CACG has four tents that can be combined to create a 20 x 20 shaded space, where outdoor meetings or classes could occur.

-- There is a barbecue to assemble.

-- Ellen suggested building some simple garden benches.

j. Henry floated the idea of having T-shirts for garden board members and key volunteers, saying it would make them look more professional when representing the garden. Perhaps they could be embroidered with the CACG logo and the message: "Ask me about..." Glen said he would check with a supplier about what that would cost.

k. Gabe Mitchell's grandfather died recently and his family is interested in planting one or more fruit trees in the garden in his memory, with a plaque. Ellen moved to support the proposal; Robin Judd seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept the Mitchell Family's offer.

V. Closing

1. The CACG board's next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.

2. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

1/28/15 eb