



## NOTES: NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting

September 24, 2014, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Committee members present:

Fit 2 Live (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Beau Cooper, Sharice Loftin), Neighborhood Services (Dan Scott), Farm and Food Innovation Center (Jody Hardin, Kristen O'Connor), R.O.C.A.N. (Jeanne Baltz), First Presbyterian Church (Robert Fisher), The People Tree (Josh Fendley)

Community members present: Diane Barton (Skyline Community Garden)

### **Funded projects update (% of funding distributed, MOUs, reporting - Bernadette)**

- 58% of obligated 2014 funds have been paid out
- Now have MOUs from all newly funded gardens
- Still need Bailey Chapel Baptist Church to get business license to cut check
- All Fall 2013 funded projects have been closed out except Heritage House

### **Budget update (Bernadette)**

- 2013 open P.O.'s: Skyline has \$3,716.74 left to spend; Vestal has \$4,773.35
- \$409.03 left in 2014 budget to spend on miscellaneous expenses
- **Beau & Sharice have account at farmers' co-op to purchase complete organic fertilizer – contact them to request fertilizer delivery**
- \$41,000 requested in 2015 budget (\$11,000 for ARGC stipends, \$30,000 for garden funding)
- **ACTION ITEM:** Email fillable PDF of reporting form to all garden managers (Bernadette).

### **Discussion: Use of remaining R.O.C.A.N. funding (Beau & Sharice)**

- Beau and Sharice proposed using one quarter of R.O.C.A.N.'s 2014 funding (\$625) for cooking supplies, food, and nutrition education materials for children in the after school program.
- Dan Scott moved to allow the proposed use of funds. Robert Fisher seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Arkansas GardenCorps 2014-15 Action Plan (Beau & Sharice)**

- Beau and Sharice outlined their GardenCorps Action Plan, which includes monthly educational seminars, regular calls and visits to garden sites, volunteer recruitment, garden awards, better process for gleaning unused garden produce, and incorporating produce into community events.
- Josh Fendley advised that NLR students want to glean produce for donation to homeless families in the school district.
- **ACTION ITEM:** share full action plan with committee once it is typed up (Beau & Sharice)

### **Updates from garden managers**

St. Joseph Farm/Farm & Food Innovation Center

- **Jody has access to 2,000 bales of straw, is looking for other garden managers to purchase a few bales. Contact Jody at [sjosephfarm@gmail.com](mailto:sjosephfarm@gmail.com)**
- Donation-only yoga at St. Joseph's every Wednesday, 6-7 PM. Yoga mats provided.
- First annual St. Joseph Farm Fest, Oct. 18-19. \$10 adults, \$5 12 and under, under 2 FREE
  - o Food forest demonstration
  - o Pioneer Village
  - o Farm stand with pumpkins
  - o Local food sales
  - o Hay rides & pyramids
  - o Farmer Olympics (Sat, 3 PM)
  - o Aquaponics demonstration
  - o Sorghum Sudan maze for kids
  - o Pumpkin patch
  - o Pasteured poultry demonstration
  - o Biochar demonstration
  - o Music from 5 bands

#### R.O.C.A.N.

- Harvested lots of tomatoes, made garden stew
- Kids didn't like raw tomatoes, but liked stew
- Largest watermelon grown was 20.5" diameter
- Church volunteer group trimmed trees, removed poison ivy, mowed
- Soon to harvest lots of sweet potatoes

#### First Presbyterian Church Community Garden

- Planting fall gardens with lots of greens, winter rye, greens for gleanings
- Garden currently has waiting list for plots. Robert is considering expanding, but needs more help from garden members
- **Weekly pay-what-you-can dinner at First Pres, "The Table," 5-8 PM, First Sunday of each month.**

#### Skyline Community Garden

- Had 5 people come to garden meet-up during Pop Up in the Rock – Park Hill
- All are interested, but don't have time to garden right now
- Diane needs more volunteers. Garden members can have their own raised bed in exchange for helping maintain common areas, mow grass
- Committee approved 2013 Skyline funds to be used for targeted outreach to community, for example yard signs or Facebook advertising
- **ACTION ITEM:** Neighborhood Services will work with Diane to do targeted mailing

**Public comment (none)**