



NOTES: NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting

November 19, 2014, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Committee members present:

Fit 2 Live (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Beau Cooper, Sharice Loftin), Neighborhood Services (Dan Scott), NLR Employee Garden (Jennifer Johansen), R.O.C.A.N. (Jeanne Baltz), Recovery Centers of Arkansas (Dawn Smith), North Little Rock Community Farm (Sam Gullion)

Community members present: Diane Barton (Skyline Community Garden)

Discussion: Use of unused funds

Fit 2 Live handed out following form with funding options:

Remaining Funds	
Skyline	\$ 2,788.21
Vestal	\$ 1,868.43
Heritage House	\$ 846.88
2014 budget	\$ 331.67
TOTAL	\$ 5,835.19

Options for Spending	
BCS tiller & attachments	\$ 2,500.00
SSAWG conference (1)	\$ 700.00
SSAWG conference (2)	\$ 1,000.00
Pallet of 48 ollas (\$20 ea)	\$ 960.00
Put money in account at Co-op/nursery/Lowes	
Prizes for garden competition	
Supplies/snacks for upcoming workshops	

BCS + SSAWG (2) + Ollas	\$ 4,460.00	\$ 1,375.19 remaining
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- Committee discussed how much it would cost to repair tiller (\$300-500 for parts). Tiller is currently being housed at City garage until the City makes a decision on whether to purchase it. We are still awaiting a final sale price from Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute, but anticipate a sales price between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Tiller would be most useful to larger, in-ground projects such as NLR Community Farm and Recovery Centers, as well as new projects such as 4 The Youth Community Garden. Dawn Smith said we were welcome to store the tiller in their secure storage shed at Recovery Centers.
- Committee discussed SSAWG conference attendance for Beau and Sharice. They explained that the training received at last year's conference was very beneficial and able to be applied directly to the NLR gardens' benefit.
- Committee discussed the purchase of ollas and concerns about ollas cracking if ground freezes, cleaning them as well as standing water.
 - Ground freezing: As long as ollas are emptied of water before freeze, this should not be an issue in our climate, since Arkansas soil does not typically freeze solid.

- Cleaning: Ollas only need to be cleaned with vinegar in hard water situations, if the water leaves mineral deposits on the inside.
- Mosquitos are not an issue since the ollas have a cover and insects cannot get in.
- **VOTE:** Dan Scott moved to allocate remaining funds towards the tiller, SSAWG conference for two, and ollas. Dawn Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **VOTE:** Dan Scott moved to give the Fit 2 Live office the authority to determine how to best divide the remaining \$1,375 among vendors such as the co-op, nearby nurseries or home improvement stores to pay for miscellaneous expenses such as garden competition prizes, garden workshop supplies, etc. Dawn Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- **OLLA UPDATE:** The Fit 2 Live office intends to approach a local co-op, nursery or gardening center about purchasing the pallet of 48 ollas to reduce risk on the City re: storage, needing to re-sell unused ollas. We will be contacting Dripping Springs (olla producer) and local potential retail outlets in the coming weeks.

AR GardenCorps Update (Beau and Sharice)

- First gardening workshop on soil health went well. There were five participants.
- The next workshop is Saturday, Dec. 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Argenta branch of Laman Library. Topic is insects in the garden.
- Have been working a lot with ROCAN, cooking for the kids and providing informal nutrition education. It's slow going, but we feel like we're making progress.

Discussion: An additional quarter of ROCAN's remaining funds to continue nutrition ed

- Beau and Sharice have already spent \$364 of their allotted \$625 on food for ROCAN.
- ROCAN is in favor of allowing Beau and Sharice to use their last quarter of funding on food in order to continue the program for a longer period.
- **VOTE:** Dan Scott moved to allow Beau and Sharice to use the last \$625 on food for nutrition education. Sam Gullion seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Change date for next garden meeting to Wed., December 17th

- All committee members were in favor of changing the date. The meeting will be a celebratory holiday gathering to thank committee members and other garden managers for their work over the past year.

Updates from garden managers

- **NLR Community Farm:** 132 lbs of sweet potatoes harvested. Hoop houses covered. Building garden boxes for rabbits. New chickens acquired that will lay more eggs. Meat birds acquired, also – trying to sell! \$10 each, you butcher them.
- **NLR Employee Garden:** Need to pull out plants, winterizing. Would be good location for ollas.
- **Recovery Centers:** Winterizing. Big melon harvest, still have many in cooler. Very popular with clients. Also harvested many peppers and tomatoes. Interested in planting sorghum sudan to crowd out Bermuda grass. Desire to start new community garden for people nearby that would also volunteer in the main garden.
- **Skyline Community Garden:** Greens growing. Irrigation plan: Soaker hoses in lower beds, ollas in high beds. In February, planning to send mailer to neighborhood with Neighborhood Services' help. Working on lease agreement for garden beds.

- **ROCAN:** Cleaning out, harvested 100+ sweet potatoes (approx. 20 lbs). Greens growing. Harvested lots of peppers.

Public comment

- None.