



NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting NOTES

January 28, 2015, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Committee members present:

Fit 2 Live (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Beau Cooper)

NLR City Council (Beth White)

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)

Skyline Community Garden (Diane Barton)

Farm and Food Innovation Center (Sierra Fowler)

Update on 2013/2014 expenditures (Bernadette)

- Leftover 2013 funds have been spent in accordance with the committee's November vote: \$2,000 for BCS tiller, attachments, ramp, and repairs
\$1,300 for SSAWG conference attendance for Beau and Sharice
\$600 for account at AR Farmers' Association
\$600 for account at Arkansas Garden Center

Open 2014 projects: spending and reporting status (Bernadette)

- **Jan. 30, 2015 FINAL reporting deadline:**
 - o **Met:** Argenta Community Garden, Recovery Centers, Baring Cross Community Garden, ROCAN
 - o **Deadline extended** until March 31, 2015 for: FFIC Food Forest, First Pres Garden
 - o **Not met:** NONE!
- **Jan. 30, 2015 MID-POINT reporting deadline:**
 - o **Met:** 4 The Youth Community Garden, FFIC (Community Garden)
 - o **Not met:** NLR Community Farm, The One Inc.

VOTES: Extending First Pres and FFIC's Food Forest project deadlines until Mar 31 (Committee)

First Presbyterian: Dan made motion to extend deadline. Beth White seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

FFIC Food Forest: Dan Scott made motion to extend deadline. Beth White seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Spring 2015 applications received (Bernadette)

6 applications were received by Feb. 2nd deadline – 3 existing projects, 3 new projects. **ACTION ITEM:** See Beau's emails with applications. Evaluations forms due back to Beau by end of day Tuesday, Feb. 10.

GardenCorps updates (Beau)

- Assisting with Cooking Matters Tuesday nights. 4 out of 8 classes completed.
- Still cooking and doing nutrition education at ROCAN once per week.

- Ollas: still working with AR Gardens to buy pallet. Manufacturer will give Fit 2 Live 10 free ollas if AR Gardens buys pallet. We can guarantee AR Gardens a few additional olla sales for individual gardens.

Updates from garden managers

Recovery Centers: Applying for funding this round. Expanding operations, half of plot will be planted with sorghum sudan. Dawn has secured tractor to till. **ACTION ITEM:** Check with History Commission's Blagley map to identify old foundations before tilling.

Baring Cross Community Garden: Applying for funding this round. Garden has two new garden managers from Summit Church, Mr. & Mrs. Lumley.

Skyline: Clearing space around fruit trees. Mailing neighborhood soon with Neighborhood Services' help. Location of next (Feb 14) garden workshop.

NLR Community Farm: Students making crop rotation plan. Will likely request some funding used for GardenCorps cash match, and some for barn. Waiting to hear back.

VOTE: Dan Scott moved to allow Bernadette to decide over NLRFC's requests without necessitating another vote. Jennifer Johansen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Farm and Food Innovation Center:

- Community Garden: Doubling size of garden. Caleb Hamilton building it in Feb/March as Eagle Scout project. Garden has 12-person wait list. All but 1 member was retained from last year. Goal is to rent 30% of plots to low-income households. Giving wait list priority to low-income households.
- Food Forest: Submitting application to NCCC to help with implementation.
ACTION ITEM: Fit 2 Live team to come up with Garden Rule best practices.
- Other: Creating Grower Incubator program. Small plots will be rented to budding farmers who will share tools and resources. Farmers will act as TAs for community gardeners.

Move up next garden meeting to Wed., February 11, 2015 for funding vote? (Bernadette)
Committee agreed to move meeting to Feb. 11.