



NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting

June 24, 2015, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Committee members present:

4 The Youth Community Garden (Kesha Cobb, Larry Westmoreland)
Baring Cross Community Garden (Janie Lumley)
First Presbyterian Church Community Garden (Robert Fisher)
NLR Employee Garden (Jennifer Johansen)
NLR Fit 2 Live (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Sharice Loftin, Beau Cooper)
NLR Neighborhood Services (Dan Scott)
NLR Community Garden (Mason Graves, Kat)
Recovery Centers Community Garden (Dawn Smith)
St. Joseph Center of Arkansas (Ruth Landers)

Follow-up items:

- Put call for volunteers for NLRCF on Facebook (*completed 7/2 – BGR*)
- Share kohlrabi slaw recipe (*see similar recipe below under NLR Employee Garden*)
- Share volunteer and harvest logs (*see attached, and posted on www.nlr.ar.gov/gardens*)
- **Send Bernadette info/logos for garden signs ASAP (4 The Youth, Shorter, NLR Academy)**
- Share photos of Mayor's Garden Tour:
<https://app.box.com/s/gpoey0uw9l7y2785sg0mqw4ovs0vv5lx>
- **Trees and plants available for free from St. Joseph's:**
 - 11 strawberry plants of a couple of varieties at least.
 - About 40-50 black locust saplings
 - Approximately 20 elderberry bushes (Though not identified, I think they are listed in your records as the Nova and York varieties and hope both are still available to cross pollinate)
 - We have 5 maple saplings
 - 1 acacia sapling
 - 2 raspberry bushes
 - 3 red bud
 - 7 mimosa saplings
 - 1 beautiful tree that needs to get in the ground which Ruth is still working on identifying

3:30-3:40 Welcome and introductions

We welcomed new committee members as of this month. New members are 4 The Youth, NLR Academy, Shorter College, and St. Patrick's.

3:40-3:55 Updates from garden managers

First Presbyterian Church/Argenta Community Garden

Heat taking its toll. Water system is up and running. Good productivity. No problems with plants being pulled up this year, though some produce has been picked and sometimes left on

ground. Still have a couple pallets left with stones from Argenta Community Garden. Planning to build compost bins with the pavers.

NLR Employee Garden

Tomatoes and strawberries still producing. Cabbages grew mushy and rotted inside, even though they were planted after all the rain. Shared kohlrabi and dips in employee break room. Made Kohlrabi and onion slaw. Here's a similar recipe for kohlrabi slaw. You can leave out the mayonnaise and put in more oil and vinegar for a healthier version:

<http://www.thekitchn.com/recipe-kohlrabi-and-carrot-slaw-recipes-from-the-kitchn-46627>

Recovery Centers Community Garden

The garden, dirt and mulch are in. Rows are planted. In the past month, a group of female residents helped a lot in maintaining the garden. Male residents tilled. Planted 100 lbs of sudan grass seed. Got edger this week to maintain sudan grass area. Tomatoes, cucumbers, jalapenos, and peppers coming up.

St. Joseph's Community Garden

Plants are growing well. Due to the wet, the squash are reaching their end, and many have had problems with powdery mildew. Tomatoes doing well. Volunteer group of 14-18-year olds came out and set up a play area in the shade of a tree – a sandbox with pots to play with. Using pallets to build compost bin. Need a fan for the greenhouse.

North Little Rock Community Farm

7 beds planted. Harvested lettuce, kale, squash, cucumbers, and okra. Putting in fence – 1 row done, 1 row and gate going in. KJ is working with EAST for the summer, so they need someone there on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the month of July from 5:30-8:30 PM to supervise the Farm Team.

Baring Cross Community Garden

Have been giving bags full of vegetables to passers-by. Trying to figure out how to attract and maintain more community involvement in the garden.

Shorter College Community Garden

Biology Students of Summer Session One having been experiencing first hand classroom lectures outside in garden (photosynthesis, cellular respiration, chemical compounds, plant environment and adaptation, etc). Students, parolees and instructors have all been contributing valuable community service hours. Working on design of community garden sign. Temperatures have interfered with polling neighborhood for information of email, phones and addresses. Challenges include watering and high temperatures on a concrete heat island. Greens, beets, okra, and squash growing well. Paula tracks volunteer hours.

St. Patrick's Community Garden

Added two 12-ft. beds for food pantry at Next Step Ministries. Most gardeners are senior citizens. Kids are excited about picking produce.

4 The Youth Community Garden

Need truckloads of dirt to fill up land and even out for greenhouse delivery (greenhouse from Cedar Fields). Building another large bed with extra lumber. Dedication beds to be built this weekend – 1 for veterans and 1 for breast cancer. Growing lemon balm, squash, tomatoes. Designing sign. Building deck with awning out front. Working on getting donations for fence construction. Need more lighting in back of property. Need water at lot – applying to Central Arkansas Water. Will launch education initiative this Fall. Church next door about to open food pantry.

3:55-4:05 Updates from Fit 2 Live & Arkansas GardenCorps

BGR: Interviews for new ARGC member complete. Beau is having follow-up conversations with our top two candidates before making final decision. Top two are young woman from South Carolina and young man from Heber Springs. Both have very strong service records. Mayor's Garden Tour went incredibly well. He was "overly impressed" with both the appearance and the impact of the 5 gardens we toured. Photos at <https://app.box.com/s/gpoey0uw9l7y2785sg0mqw4ovs0vv5lx>
Mobile Market: Working on engaging the Baring Cross community. Planning meeting will take place Monday, July 20, 7-8 pm, tentatively at ACTS church.

Beau and Sharice: Starting fall crops in greenhouse next week. Goal: document urban gardening challenges faced by our gardens and solutions.

4:05-4:15 Discussion: St. Joseph Farm Stand & opportunity to sell produce

St. Joseph Center is working with Alderman Witcher on revising their special use language to allow their farm stand to sell 1) their own garden produce, 2) produce from other community and personal gardens, and 3) produce from local farmers. For more information, contact Sandy Decoursey, stjosephcenter@gmail.com.

4:15-4:25 Discussion: Food Forest project closure & possible reuse of funds

The Farm and Food Innovation Center has closed and handed over Food Forest project ownership to St. Joseph Center. However, St. Joseph Center does not have the ability to continue the Food Forest, so they will be submitting an amended budget proposal to use the remaining Food Forest funds (\$2,500) in a way more suited to SJCA's mission. The budget proposal will be sent to the community garden committee for review.

4:25-4:30 Public comment None.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Mayor's Garden Tour:** Tuesday, June 30, 8:30-10:30 a.m. (see back for schedule)
- **Garden Workshop on Water Conservation:** Saturday, June 27, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., St. Joseph Community Garden (6800 Camp Robinson Rd)
- **Fall 2015 Garden Funding Application Deadline:** Monday, August 3, 4:00 p.m.