



NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2016, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- “Lettuce Grow” Spring Festival at St. Joseph Center of Arkansas TOMORROW, Saturday, May 7, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM.
****Hunger Relief Garden Dedication at 11:15 AM****
- Keep NLR Beautiful Cleanup: May 14. Sign up at www.knlrb.org
- Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 25, **3:30-4:30 PM** (*new time*)
- Smart Watering Workshop Saturday, June 25, 10 am–12 pm, Dogtown Farmers Market (with hands-on olla making!)

Committee members present:

Fresh Veggies Idlewild (Jeanne Hyde)

Iris Park (Judy & Fred Cromwell)

NLR Fit 2 Live (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Beau Cooper, Sara Webb)

NLR Neighborhood Services (Dan Scott)

R.O.C.A.N. Community Garden (Jean Baltz)

St. Joseph Center of Arkansas Community Garden (Ruth Landers)

St. Joseph Universal Institute of Theology Community Garden (Michael Merritt, Felecia Love)

St. Patrick’s Community Garden (Robby McAllister)

Other attendees:

Simuel Ramey, school garden at Harris Elementary (Pulaski Co. Special School District)

2:30-2:38 Welcome & Introductions

2:38-2:40 Approval of Minutes

Ruth Landers made revision of SJCA Garden update: “20 total beds. Has waiting list.”

Robby McAllister made motion to approve minutes from March 23rd meeting. Beau Cooper seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2:40-2:50 Fit 2 Live Updates

Things to plant now

- All summer crops – ASAP!
- Tomatoes, okra, squash, peppers, melons, cucumbers, beans

Available seeds and starts

- Starts available from greenhouse: Squash, melons. Watch your email for pick up times.
- Lots of seeds available – let us know what you need! (okra, cucumbers, bell peppers, ...)
- First Pres (4th and Maple) has onion bulbs. One of their gardeners has a nursery and is donating plants. Other Fit 2 Live garden are welcome to take some. Sara and Beau have them in the greenhouse. Plant among your other crops to keep bugs off.

- ROCAN (Jean Baltz) has a lot of strawberry plants and will give some away. She also had two brand new rain barrels to trade for other items. Contact Jean at 376-1991

Beau's new schedule

- Beau has taken a new part-time job at CALS, Williams Branch.
- Beau will work at the library Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Beau will also work at the library every other Friday, all day.
- On M, W, Th, Beau will come in to NLR to serve from approx. 3:00-5:00 pm.
- Beau will be with Fit 2 Live all day Tuesdays and every other Friday.
- Please copy Beau AND Sara on all emails to ensure consistency.

Change meeting time back to 3:30 pm?

- Committee agreed to change meeting time back to 3:30-4:30 pm.

ARGC member for next year

- We have been awarded one full-time ARGC member, or two part-time members...our choice. We will make our decision as a committee, and anyone is welcome to participate in candidate interviews. Part of our decision will depend on whether the best candidate(s) want full-time or part-time.

Funding report

- Gardens whose reporting is still incomplete:
 - 4 The Youth: Still owes receipts for total \$2,000 funding amount, plus final report. Bernadette spoke with garden manager and she says she will get it in.
 - Heritage House: Contacted Susan about the \$346.36 they are still holding according to our records. She thinks Nita spent it before she left the position. Still confirming with Susan.
 - NLR Community Farm: received 6-month report, still in need of receipts totaling \$1,900. KJ working on it. NLRCF has incorporated as a for-profit Benefit Corporation. The City Attorney's office has advised that they are no longer eligible for new funding since we can only fund nonprofits.
 - Shorter College: Still owes receipts for \$784 & final report. Garden manager promises to get everything in by mid-month.

Volunteer & harvest logs

- Please send numbers to Beau and Sara by 5th of each month.

Compost

- Please take pictures of yourself using your free compost from American Composting for their website!

2:50-3:00 Discussion: Support of gardens who have not completed reporting

Discussion: Resources such as ARGC help and plant starts/seeds must be prioritized for the gardens who are current on all their reporting requirements.

Motion made by Jeanne Hyde: If a garden is delinquent on reporting/receipts for 1-6 months, they have last pick of plants and only extra ARGC time. If a garden is delinquent for 6+ months, they are cut off from receiving Fit 2 Live resources.

Ruth Landers seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

3:00-3:05 Discussion: Handling garden theft/engaging passers-by

Engage passers-by in a friendly manner, explain how garden works, what can/can not be picked. If needed, put up signs. Consider Spanish-language signs if appropriate. Contact Ruth Landers for ideas on cute/friendly signs: 519-1786.

3:05-3:25 Garden Updates

St. Joseph Center of Arkansas Community Garden

All going well. Recommended organic method for getting rid of fire ants: spinosad (brand: "Come and Get It" from Farmers Association). This method is approved for veggie gardens. Make sure fire ants are foraging before spreading.

The Field

Has beehives and chickens to give away to interested gardens. Contact Jimmy: 773-8655.

Fresh Veggies Idlewild

Lots of work and volunteer involvement going on.

County farm (Two Rivers Park) is getting rid of chickens. If you have a home for chickens, contact Jeanne Hyde: 375-8669.

3:25-3:30 Public Comment

None.

3:30 Meeting Adjourned