

Oct – A Year In Review 2023  
Community Garden Public Advisory Committee Minutes



**Date & Time:** Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 2023, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

**Location:** NLR Neighborhood Services (3427 N Magnolia St.)

**Committee Members**

*Present* - Dan Scott, Sylvia Blain, Chelle Kelly

*Absent* – Nathan Hamilton, Marcie Finney

**Garden Members + Program Staff**

*Present* – Anna Sawyer

*The meeting came to order at 3:41 PM. A quorum was present.*

**AGENDA**

1. 3:30-3:35, *Welcome/Attendance*
2. 3:35 – 4:20, *Discussion Items*
3. 4:20 – 4:30, *Public Discussion / Building Tour*
4. 4:30, *Adjourn*

**1. Tree at Skyline**

- a. **\$1600 quote from Jim’s Tree Service**
- b. **Public safety issue – asking for reimbursement**

The committee reviewed photos submitted by Diane Barton, Garden Manager for Skyline, of a fallen/rotting tree on property. She received a quote for \$1600 from Jim’s Tree Service for removal and is requesting reimbursement. Program Coordinator, Anna, notes that in the past the program has offered “emergency funding” opportunities but this has been limited only to gardens previously funded within that fiscal year. Moving forward, the GAC will address emergency requests during the October meeting. **The committee asks that three (3) quotes are provided for the tree removal at Skyline and will fund said request. Dan Scott moved to approve this request. Sylvia Blain seconded the motion. It passed with 3 affirmatives.**

**2. Baring Cross Community Garden**

- a. **2<sup>nd</sup> full-time position with ½ time at B.C. and ½ time at other gardens**
- b. **ACTS Church Committee involved in operations and 2<sup>nd</sup> person working**
- c. **Distribution of produce stays in Baring Cross through distribution via the church, neighborhood association, the school, and NLRCGP if necessary.**

Dan Scott presented updates re: Baring Cross Community Garden. Agreement between NLR, ACTS Church and Baring Cross Neighborhood Association are in the works, with the goals of turning the space into a year-round production garden that will support Boone Park Elementary, neighbors, and Senior Citizen high-rise complexes with fresh produce. During Anna’s leave of absence, Jeff Titus fixed the irrigation leak on-site and collaborated with Code Enforcement to scalp and mow six (6) high tunnels.

Oct – A Year In Review 2023  
Community Garden Public Advisory Committee Minutes

The plan is to grow produce in one (1) high tunnel during this fall/winter season and solarize the remaining five (5) tunnels for spring planting. Anna and Beau will work to expedite a garden sign to this location. This project will be a significant change to the program's services, but there is a large need. Chelle Kelly questioned whether or not this garden would be eligible for traditional seasonal funding. Sylvia Blain stresses the importance of community surveying (partnering with a college to do so) and data collection (to track need and impact).

**3. Policy for gardens failing to turn in receipts/reports**

- a. Excluding from program
- b. Putting on probation
- c. Continuing to request information

As it stands, the current written policy is that reports/receipts not submitted will be prosecuted by the city attorney. In practice, gardens that have not yet submitted reports/receipts will be ineligible for the following round of funding.

**4. Policy for working with NLRSD gardens**

- a. Summer problem
- b. Ties to external organizations as a requirement?

School district gardens pose a challenge during the summer months, since students and staff are not on campus during that time and at most gardens water is inaccessible. It has been a labor/resource drain on the program. Sylvia Blain questions if school gardens are set up for success? Possible solutions include requiring an external partnership (rent-a-plot to families during the summer, non-profit collaboration, etc.). Encourages the program to talk to NLRSD staff to figure out a way forward.

**5. Data standards requested from gardens**

Gardens need to submit an end-of-the-year report with produce yield and volunteer hours served. This can be submitted at the beginning of every year (January) when business licenses are due.

**6. Conversion of 3<sup>rd</sup> building on N.S. complex into garden.**

Group tour of 3<sup>rd</sup> building.

**7. Greenhouse on Neighborhood Services complex.**

Group tour of complex.

**8. Public Comments**

N/A

Dan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chelle Kelly seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.