

SPRING 2023  
Community Garden Public Advisory Committee Minutes



**Date & Time:** January 17<sup>th</sup> 2023, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM  
**Location:** NLR Neighborhood Services (3427 N Magnolia St.)

**Committee Members**

*Present* - Dan Scott, Starr Crow, Nathan Hamilton, Susan Gibson, Chelle Kelly  
*Absent* – N/A

**Garden Members**

*Present* – Ashley Mobley (Skyline), Marcie Finney (Idlewild), Madison Srebalus (Idlewild), Lauren Anderson (BP/UP), Xiomara Vasquez (BP/UP), Lacy Sullivan (Pike View)

*The meeting came to order at 3:30 PM. A quorum was present.*

**AGENDA**

1. 3:30-3:35, *Welcome/Attendance*
2. 3:35 – 4:20, *Spring Funding 2023 Application Review and Scores*
3. 4:20-4:25, *Closing Remarks*
4. 4:30, *Adjourn*

**Application Review and Scores**

1. **Boone Park & Urban Patchwork** – Amount Requested: \$1,500; Amount Approved: **\$1,500**

**Note: This application is unique in that it is apiary-focused, combines both a school and non-profit efforts, and would benefit the neighboring Baring Cross Community Garden at Vestal Park led by James Shelton and Chris Riggins of ACTS Church Ministries**

The committee reviewed the application from Boone Park Elementary / Urban Patchwork for \$1,500. Chelle Kelly questioned safety concerns i.e. hive insurance and safety protocol. Anderson and Vasquez, advocates for the garden, stated all hives are insured and that NLRSD has protocol for bee-stings and possible allergic reactions. Anderson also stated that she could be called in by the City of NLR to relocate swarms, if necessary. Nathan Hamilton expressed interest in photo submission of students and staff in beekeeping suits! The application superseded requirements and was given a perfect score – 21/21. Nathan Hamilton moved to approve the application. Dan Scott seconded the motion. It passed with five affirmatives.

**Score: 21/21**

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**2. Idlewild Community Garden** – Amount Requested: \$4,400; Amount Approved: **\$4,400**

**Note: This application was fully approved by the Committee in fall of 2022. It was unable to be approved by City Council due to overlap with the License Agreement.**

The committee reviewed the recycled application from Idlewild Community Garden for \$4,400. There was very little discussion and the application was given a perfect score – 21/21. Dan Scott moved to approve the application. Susan Gibson seconded the motion. It passed with five affirmatives.

**Score: 21/21**

**3. St. Joseph Center Garden**– Amount Requested: \$5,000; Amount Approved: **\$5,000**

**Note: A previous iteration of this application was approved by the Committee in fall of 2022. It was unable to be approved by City Council due to overlap with the License Agreement. The application has since been modified to more accurately fit the current needs of the garden. Both Chelle and Nathan must abstain from voting due to external ties with the applicant. Chelle may advocate for the gardens application.**

The committee, with Chelle Kelly and Nathan Hamilton abstaining, reviewed the revised application from St. Joseph Center Community Garden for \$5,000. Chelle Kelly, serving as a representative of the SJCA garden, explained that the application was altered. In fall of 2022, SJCA submitted a request for \$5,000 for a greenhouse. Over the winter (2022-2023), SJCA secured a partnership with Home Depot to build a greenhouse. Now, SJCA is requesting funding to build a pergola/outdoor space for garden-based educational trainings. Starr Crow noted that the lack of line-item budgeting is a drawback. After much discussion, the application was given a score of 20/21 – receiving 2/3 on the “budget” factor. Susan Gibson moved to approve the application. Dan Scott seconded the motion. It passed with three affirmatives and two abstaining parties.

**Score: 20/21**

**4. Pike View E.C.C.**– Amount Requested: \$3,550; Amount Approved: **\$3,550**

**Note: A final report for SP 2022 funding has not yet been submitted – it is due April first. According to Lacy Sullivan, materials requested in SP 2022 have been delivered and plans are in place to build.**

The committee reviewed the application from Pike View Early Childhood Center for \$3,550. The committee noted that printed versions of the application cut-off several responses. This will be addressed by program staff to prevent further issues. Program staff, Anna Sawyer, noted that there was a disconnect between responses and budget request. Lacy Sullivan, representative of Pike View E.C.C., clarified discrepancies to the committee. Sullivan advocated for the need of a sensory path/walkway, as the garden can get mucky post-rain. Chelle Kelly noted sustainability concerns with the compost tumbler request and suggested an alternative. After much discussion, the application was given a score of 20/21 – receiving a 2/3 on the “budget” factor. Nathan Hamilton moved to approve the application. Susan Gibson seconded the motion. It passed with five affirmatives.

**Score: 20/21**

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5. **Skyline Community Garden** – Amount Requested: \$3,803.20; Amount Approved: **\$3,803.20**

**Note: Diane Barton, Garden Manager, has requested that this check be cut in a lump-sum due to purchasing logistics. This request is a continuation of 2022 efforts.**

The committee reviewed the application from Skyline Community Garden for \$3,803.20. There was overwhelming support from the committee and the application was given a perfect score – 21/21. Starr Crow moved to approve the application. Chelle Kelly seconded the motion. It passed with five affirmatives.

**Score: 21/21**

**Closing Remarks**

Starr Crow raised the question – “what is the goal of the program?”. The goal of the program is to fund, expand, connect, and support urban gardening and farming initiatives in the City of North Little Rock. As long as there is a need, the NLR Community Garden Program (NLRCGP) will support garden-based projects that positively impact the community and produce fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, honey, etc. Nathan Hamilton noted that the budget for the NLRCGP comes from “special appropriations”. Dan Scott noted that staffing budget comes from the Department of Neighborhood Services.

Nathan Hamilton motioned to adjourn the meeting. Starr Crow seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Total funds allocated: **\$18,253.20**