

SPRING 2024
Community Garden Public Advisory Committee Minutes



Date & Time: January 30th 2024, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Location: NLR Neighborhood Services (3427 N Magnolia St.)

Committee Members

Total (5): Dan Scott, Nathan Hamilton, Sylvia Blain, Chelle Kelly, Marcie Finney
Staff: Anna Sawyer

Present – **Dan Scott, Sylvia Blain, Marcie Finney + Anna Sawyer, Xiomara Vasquez, Mark Shaw, Evan Blake, Lauren Anderson**

Absent – Chelle Kelly, Nathan Hamilton

*The meeting came to order at **3:32 PM**. A quorum was present.*

AGENDA

1. 3:30 – 3:35, *Welcome/Attendance*
2. 3:35 – 4:10, *Application Review and Scores*
3. 4:10 – 4:20, *Garden & Program Review*
4. 4:20 – 4:30, *GAC Unfinished Business*
5. 4:30, *Adjourn*

The GAC will review applications from the following six (6) gardens. Total amount requested for \$17,950. LISA North rescinded their spring 2024 application the morning of 1.30.24.

1. ***NEW* Boone Park Elementary Garden** –
Amount Requested: \$1,500; Amount Approved: \$1,500

Note: This site was originally partnered with Calm & Confidence however there are challenges with having bees on NLRSD property. Xiomara Vasquez (Garden Manager) is applying independently this round with requests for a greenhouse, planters, and irrigation for their school courtyard garden. They are planning on growing Fall-Spring and going “dormant” in the summer months.

The committee reviewed the application from Boone Park Elementary for \$1,500. Sylvia Blain questioned maintenance plan, class participation, and garden integration with school curriculum. Xiomara Vasquez, prospective garden manager, explained that production would be focused on during the spring and fall. During the summer months, the garden will be solarized or cover cropped to prevent a weed problem. As of right now, Vasquez’s class is the only STEM class formally integrated with the garden but she hopes more teachers will become interested. NLRSD has approved of this application. Sylvia has concerns regarding the quality of the greenhouse structure for \$600 and Program Coordinator, Anna Sawyer, agrees. The committee as a whole suggests looking at an alternative way to spend that allotted amount. Xiomara Vasquez will follow up in an email to Anna Sawyer annotating any

SPRING 2024
Community Garden Public Advisory Committee Minutes

budget changes that will then be shared with the GAC. The application received one point deduction for general information (missing a few attachments) and one point deduction for feasibility (summer maintenance concerns), totaling 19/21. Marcie Finney motioned to approve the application. Sylvia Blain seconded the motion. It passed with the quorum requirement of three affirmatives.

Score: 19/21

2. Idlewild Community Garden –

Amount Requested: \$5,000; Amount Approved: \$5,000*

*The application needs approval from one additional committee member to meet the quorum. The applicant is required to submit a 2024 Business License to the NLR City Clerk.

Note: Returning garden in excellent standing! Notable progress demonstrated onsite and in compliance with all reporting. Marcie Finney (Garden Manager/GAC Member) is requesting funds for additional raised beds, shade cloth, tools, irrigation supplies, and soil amendments.

Marcie Finney, both committee member and garden applicant, recused herself from the review process. The committee reviewed the application for Idlewild Community Garden for \$5,000. All members noted substantial on-site progress and volunteer participation at the garden. The application received one point deduction for general information (missing 2024 business license), totaling 20/21. Dan Scott motioned to approve the application. Sylvia Blain seconded the motion.* It passed with the quorum requirement of three affirmatives.

**Chelle Kelly moved to approve the application via email on 2.7.24.*

Score: 20/21

3. *NEW* LPOA Community Garden –

Amount Requested: \$1,500; Amount Approved: \$1,500

Note: This is a new garden wanting to join our program! Mark Shaw and Evan Blake are affiliates of the Lakewood Property Association – they conducted a neighborhood survey and feedback indicated a strong desire for a community garden. They are requesting funds to build several raised beds (in partnership with the Girl Scouts).

The committee reviewed the application for LPOA Community Garden for \$1,500. Sylvia Blain and Marcie Finney questioned the accessibility of the garden – will it be open to all members of the public? Mark Shaw and Evan Blake, prospective garden managers, explained that plots will be open to anyone interested but residents in the immediate neighborhood would be prioritized on a waitlist. They explained that there is heavy community interest in a garden and hope to develop the area (i.e. playground, bathroom, pavilion, etc.) into a community space. There was discussion differentiating between the LRID (improvement district) and the LPOA (managing non-profit). Marcie Finney noted the gardens proximity to Idlewild Community Garden. Shaw and Blake hope to curate a community partnership with Idlewild. There was discussion of having a combined community work-day. Sylvia Blain noted the lack of budget detail. The application received two point deductions for budget (lack of detail/research), totaling 19/21. Dan Scott motioned to approve the application. Sylvia Blain seconded the motion. It passed with the quorum requirement of three affirmatives.

Score: 19/21

SPRING 2024
Community Garden Public Advisory Committee Minutes

4. Calm & Confidence Apiary Garden (Urban Patchwork) –

Amount Requested: \$5,000; Amount Approved: \$5,000

Note: Returning garden operating in partnership with Boone Park Elementary to offer beekeeping programming to students and housed within the Baring Cross Community Garden (Vestal Park). Lauren Anderson (Garden Manager) is applying for their second garden grant with requests for bees, hives, protective equipment, value-added materials, and educational materials.

The committee reviewed the application for the Calm & Confidence (Urban Patchwork) Apiary Garden for \$5,000. Sylvia Blain questioned the paperwork since Jimmy Parks is noted as the filing signature for the Domestic Nonprofit license. Lauren Anderson clarified that she is acting as project manager for apiary initiatives. Anna Sawyer, program coordinator, noted the need for this project as it ties into larger food security programming in the Baring Cross neighborhood. The application received one point deduction for general information (see above), totaling 20/21. Sylvia Blain motioned to approve the application. Marcie Finney seconded the motion. It passed with the quorum requirement of three affirmatives.

Score: 20/21

5. TGSMBBC Garden of Eating –

Amount Requested: \$3,000; Amount Approved: \$3,000

Note: Returning garden in good standing! The garden continues to produce year-round and are up to date with all reporting. Rodney Ford (Garden Manager) is requesting funds for an on-site limb removal (hazardous), irrigation materials, tools, seeds, and equipment maintenance.

The committee reviewed the application for TGSMBBC's Garden of Eating for \$3,000. The committee questioned the need for pesticides; Anna Sawyer explained the garden has a severe issue with fire ants. Sylvia Blain and Dan Scott questioned the need for trimming trees; Anna Sawyer explained that there is a safety issue with one of the limbs wrapping around a cable. Sylvia Blain asked for justification for the \$350 request for sprinkler system and how the garden will track a volunteer increase of 25% for the 2024 year. Pending answers to the aforementioned questions, Dan Scott motioned to approve the application. Sylvia Blain seconds the motion. It passed with the quorum requirement of three affirmatives.

Score: 20/21

6. North Heights Community Center Garden–

Amount Requested: \$1,950; Amount Approved: \$1,950

Note: Returning garden with hopes of continuing to expand their growing space. Ernest Peoples (Garden Manager/City Staff) is requesting funds for raised bed materials, irrigation supplies, and tools. In spring of 2023, we assisted with a “garden revamp” in partnership with NLR Parks & Rec. There have been issues with reporting in the past (Fall 2021).

Score: _____/21

SPRING 2024
Community Garden Public Advisory Committee Minutes

The committee reviewed the application for the North Heights Community Center Garden. The committee notes several gaps in the paperwork; lack of signature on assurances form, business license for Funland, and itemized budget requests did not align with the total (\$1,500 totaled vs. \$1,950 actual request). The application received two point deductions for general information, one point deduction for project description, and two point deductions for budget as a result of the aforementioned reasons, totaling 16/21. Sylvia Blain moved to approve of these applications contingent on signature, accurate documents, and budget review. Dan Scott seconded the motion. It passed the quorum requirement of three affirmatives.

Score: 16/21

Total Spring Funding allocated: \$17,950

The meeting surpassed the allotted time. The committee was able to review Spring Funding applications, but program review was placed on hold. Anna Sawyer will call another GAC meeting in February to address SOP's and other program happenings.

Sylvia Blain motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dan Scott seconded the motion

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM.