

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: ~~May 18, 2009~~ April 20, 2009

Date: November 29, 2009

Time: 5:45pm

Place: NATA Room – Council Chambers

Prepared By: Dwayne James

- **Introductions** 5 minutes
 - Jackie Lewis Harris 19 S. Barat jalewisharris@yahoo.com
 - Chris Jaurigui 131 S. Hartnett cjaurigui@hotmail.com
 - Angelique Kidd 620 Ballman notoaster@sbcglobal.net
 - Craig Kidd 620 Ballman
 - Natasha Ramey 110 Church nramey@fergusoncity.com
 - Heather Robinett 514 Tiffin Ave hlrobinett@yahoo.com
 - Larry Robinett 514 Tiffin Ave ldrobinett@att.com
 - ~~Enyonam Tandoh 819 Thatcher Ave~~ enyoabi@hotmail.com
 - Nancy Whitener 501 N. Florissant nwhitener@fergusoncity.com
 - Dwayne James 402 Tiffin Ave djames@fergusoncity.com

- **Reports/Updates** +5 minutes
 - ~~Summary of Nancy Whitener's notes about other gardens~~ **Council Presentation**
Nancy updated everyone on her discussions with other cities about their neighborhood gardens. Notes are attached. The presentation to Council made by Natasha and Dwayne went very well. Council complimented the residents for their hard work – and agreed to allocate \$2500 for the each of the gardens this year and place \$2500 in the budget for each garden next year.
 - ~~Summary of Brown Bag Session on Community Gardens at UMSL~~ **Discussion with Public Works**
Larry/Heather Robinett and Jackie Lewis Harris gave a summary of the brown bag session. The handout listing the summer workshop series is attached. A few highlights from the session are as follows:
 - *Fencing is not a deterrent. Natural Barrier is a great way to deter unwanted visitors into the garden area.*
 - *There has been a 32% increase in gardens in the area.*
 - *Gardens are shown to reduce crime, retain residents and convert homes to owner-occupied status (within a 3-mile radius)**Other notes and valuable information:*
 - *Cool Valley Elementary School is a great source for volunteers*
 - *Live for Life school (in the city) sells seeds each year. Dwayne has spoken with PW about the request for help to clean up debris from each of the gardens and the need to the chipper at some point to help with the limbs/ etc from the trees that are being cut down. PW also provided an estimate of \$20/bush for boxwoods.*
 - ~~Summary of Brown Bag Session on Community Gardens at UMSL~~ **Other**
 - *Natasha to review process for getting funds without paying upfront.*
 - *Dwayne to check on requirement for liability insurance.*

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Neighborhood Gardens Exploratory Committee – City of Ferguson

- **Garden Schedules/Dates/Needs** 30 minutes
OFW – Cutting down trees and setting dates garden clean-up (May 30th and June 27th). Presented the gardens at the last meeting and was able to secure a few more volunteers and interested participants. Ferguson Middle, Central Elementary and Cool valley Elementary are candidates to get youth,
Robert Superior – Will take additional samples to check for chemicals in soil and lead paint. Would like to add a Children’s Garden area. Biggest concern is obtaining property from County and also getting “OK” from City and DNR to install tank.

 - **Fundraisers** 15 minutes
 - *Vincenzo’s – Dwayne to check with Mike Lonero about either August 24th or 31st.*
 - *June 19th Concert Series – Dwayne to start some sort of planning for this fundraising. Garden committee will need to work booth and help cook food. Some up front cash will be needed. It was thought that we could sell – Grilled Corn, Pickles, watermelon, Cookies, Pulled Turkey sandwich, rosemary punch.*
 - *Scarecrows - Chris Jaurigui is still working through the concept and implementation. More information to come.*

 - **Sustainability Discussion** 5 minutes
Initial discussion was started about the sustainability of the group. Does there need to be an organization formed that is umbrella over all the gardens to help with fundraising? Management of gardens? Etc? does this need to be a 501c3 organization?

 - **Next Meeting Dates** 5 minutes
June 15th at 5:45 in the NATA Room

 - **Adjourn**
6:50 pm
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