

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 20, 2009

Date: ~~November 29, 2009~~ April 30, 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	hrobinett@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**

15 minutes

- Summary of Nancy Whitener's notes about other gardens
Nancy updated everyone on her discussions with other cities about their neighborhood gardens. Notes are attached.
- Summary of Brown Bag Session on Community Gardens at UMSL
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.*

- **Garden Proposals**

20 minutes

Larry/Heather Robinett and Craig/Angelique Kidd presented their proposals for gardens in OFW and Robert Superior, respectively. See attached images of the proposed layouts. Donations and Volunteers have begun to be secured. Each proposal outlines the plan for building to sustainability over the next few years.

OFW is proposing to tap into the water main as the water source. A plumber has donated his labor. Trees have begun to be removed and apple trees have been planted. They are still waiting for the soil samples to return.

Robert Superior is proposing that a water tank be installed to collect natural water from runoff. The tank will include a pumping mechanism for distribution to the garden. Labor and machine equipment will be donated but money is needed for tank and plumbing.

Dwayne and Natasha discussed their proposal to Council requesting that \$5,000 be budgeted for each start-up garden over a two-year period. By the third year, the garden should be predominately “self-sustained.”

- **Schedule / Cost Discussion**

10 minutes

- Fundraisers

Dwayne talked about possible fundraising opportunities that have been presented to the garden committee:

- ***Vincenzo’s** – Mike Lonero offered his restaurant along with food and drink to the garden committee as a fundraising opportunity. Mike will prepare the food and provide beer/wine. The committee will need to sell tickets – say \$20 each possibly with a maximum capacity of ~50 people. A date (and program) still needs to be worked out.*
- ***June 19th Concert Series** – FSBD offered the committee the opportunity to host a booth at the concert. More information to come.*

*Chris Jaurigui shared some ideas that he is proposing for possible fundraisers. These ideas include: **Scarecrows, Seed Packets, T-Shirts, Hats/Aprons, and Perennial Plants.** He also suggested that the committee consider holding some sort of **Garden Fair, Health Food Fair or a Concert Series.** Chris said that he is still investigating all of the possible options and working to secure partners; and thinks that the Scarecrow idea might be the first to come to fruition because of the ease of getting it going along with the possibility of making the production into a fun art activity.*

- **Sustainability Discussion**

5 minutes

Discussion was had on the need for each garden group to develop a realistic long-term plan and continue to develop a list of volunteers/donors. It was mentioned that having this in place now will help when applying for grants down the road.

It was mentioned that other associations in Ferguson are already beginning to think about gardens in their respective areas. Both OFW and Robert Superior gardens mentioned that their gardens are open to all residents and can be a source for lessons learned/best practices for other gardens down the road.

Initial discussion was had about developing some sort of Ferguson Community Garden Collaborative as an umbrella committee for all the different gardens in Ferguson. This committee could run city-wide fundraisers and distribute proceeds.

- **Next Meeting Dates**

5 minutes

May 18th at 5:45 in the NATA Room

- **Adjourn**

7:00 pm

Nancy Whitener's notes in speaking with other communities about their neighborhood gardens:

Gardening notes:

Maryland Heights Garden -

Folks can grow whatever they wish. 95 percent of folks grow vegetables. Got started by putting an announcement in Parks and Recreation brochure and local papers. First year had 22 people and group has actually gotten smaller. Do not have fence around garden so have to deal with deer, geese and 2 legged creatures.

Each person gets a plot 4 feet by 30 feet with a three feet path around each plot so a mower can fit through. Problem is some folks think they can garden the entire plot and have found that at times this size is too big. Many times the gardener lets it go to weeds. This is an issue with the council as well as the neighboring gardeners.

Do provide a water spicket but each gardener must provide hoses as well as other gardening implements.

Basically an organic garden. No chemicals used. Worst might be preen. Supposed to be organic but it really smells.

Parks Department tills the garden twice a year. Once in the spring and once at the end of the season.

City stall collects samples of the soil and has it analyzed by the botanical garden every year to make sure what the soil may need. Through this analysis they tell the gardener what they need to put in the soil such as calcium, bone meal, phosofia. Do not wait until spring to have soil analyzed. Do this in the fall so have plenty of time to perform the analysis and get back with participants.

In September, send letter so they can remove what they wish so parks folks can till soil. Deadline is October 15th.

Parks staff goes out every spring and marks the plots. An announcement is distributed in December telling gardeners about registration. Charge of \$10 for each gardener - limit 1 plot per household unless they find plots are still remaining. Then they will assign 2 plots per person.

Bridgeton's Garden -

Have 15 plots 30 feet by 36 feet with just a walking path. No room inbetween. The city provides a water source on all 4 corners. Also trash cans and benches. Park operations disc ground in spring and the fall. Parks staff steaks out the gardens in the spring. Plots are reserved on first come seniority basis. New comers are welcome as space opens up. Keep names on wait list and the date indicated they are interested. Most of Bridgeton's garden is a vegetable garden. Volunteers will plant flowers around sign. Generally all vegetables.

No charge but must be 60 years of age or older and Bridgeton resident. Keep whatever they grow themselves although they do share tomatoes with staff.

A letter is sent out with a chart and who is in garden and telephone number. If they see someone out of hand they will generally take care of it themselves. Bridgeton operations disc ground around March 15.

No chemicals are allowed.

A meeting is planned every February to cover the rules. Sometimes people tend to neglect in the really hot months and garden seems to get overgrown. Only in past years have they had a problem with stealing vegetables but being next to police station really helps this.

Sometimes can get overgrown, but otherwise looks very pretty. Gardeners need to bring their own hoses. Currently have lots of gardeners with tons on the wait list.

No real problems. Very nice activity. City has had a garden since 1984.

Sustainable Gardening Workshop Series offered through Gateway Greening & The William J. Harrison Northside Education Center

Summer Session 2009—10 workshops over 12 weeks
05/09/09 – 08/01/09—no class 05/23 or 07/04 due to holidays,
9am-11am

Sustainable Gardening Workshop Series—Summer

- 05/09 Vegetable Gardening: Bell Garden, 3871 Bell, 63108
- o Goal Setting
 - o Soil Fundamentals
 - o Tools
 - o Transplanting
 - o Plot Design
- 05/16 Summer Crops: Bell Garden, 3871 Bell, 63108
- o Seasonal Planting Calendar
 - o Soil Preparation for hot crops
 - o Watering
 - o Harvest
- 05/30 Ornamental Trees and Shrubs: Bell Garden, 3871 Bell, 63108
- o Four season interest
 - o Shade and Sun
 - o Transplanting
 - o Pruning
- 06/06 Composting: City Seeds Urban Farm, 2200 Pine, 63103
- o What is compost?
 - o General Maintenance
 - o Vermicomposting
- 06/13 Water Conservation: William A. Kerr Foundation, 21 O'Fallon St., 63102
- o Rain barrel water collection
 - o Raingardens & plant selection
 - o Rooftop gardening
- 06/30 Disease and Pest Management: City Seeds Urban Farm, 2200 Pine, 63103
- o Identification
 - o Organic vs. Non-Organic
 - o Herbicides
 - o Pesticides
- 07/11 Propagation: Bell Garden, 3871 Bell, 63108
- o Sowing Calendar
 - o Sowing Medium
 - o General Maintenance
- 07/18 Native Perennials: City Seeds Urban Farm, 2200 Pine, 63103
- o Summer Blooming
 - o Seed Saving of Spring Blooming
 - o Attracting Pollinators
 - o Deadheading/Haircuts
- 07/25 Fall Crops: Bell Garden, 3871 Bell, 63108
- o Seasonal Planting Calendar
 - o Soil Preparation for cool crops
 - o Watering
 - o Harvest
- 08/01 Preserving your Harvest: Five Star Senior Center, 2832 Arsenal, 63118
- o Canning
 - o Freezing
 - o Drying

Course Description

A sustainable garden is one that thrives with minimal inputs of labor, water, fertilizer and pesticides. Gardening methods do have implications beyond the backyard. If all gardeners, new and experienced, continue to adopt and refine the principles of sustainable gardening, they will further enhance the environment for people, plants and wildlife.

By attending these Sustainable Gardening courses, you will learn the fundamentals of organic vegetable gardening, from sowing seeds to harvesting your homegrown goodies. You will also learn how to preserve your harvest for the long run by canning, freezing and drying. The Sustainable Gardening Workshop Series is a comprehensive list of classes taught seasonally at actual gardening sites to give you valuable hands-on training.

Sustainable Gardening Workshop Series Criteria

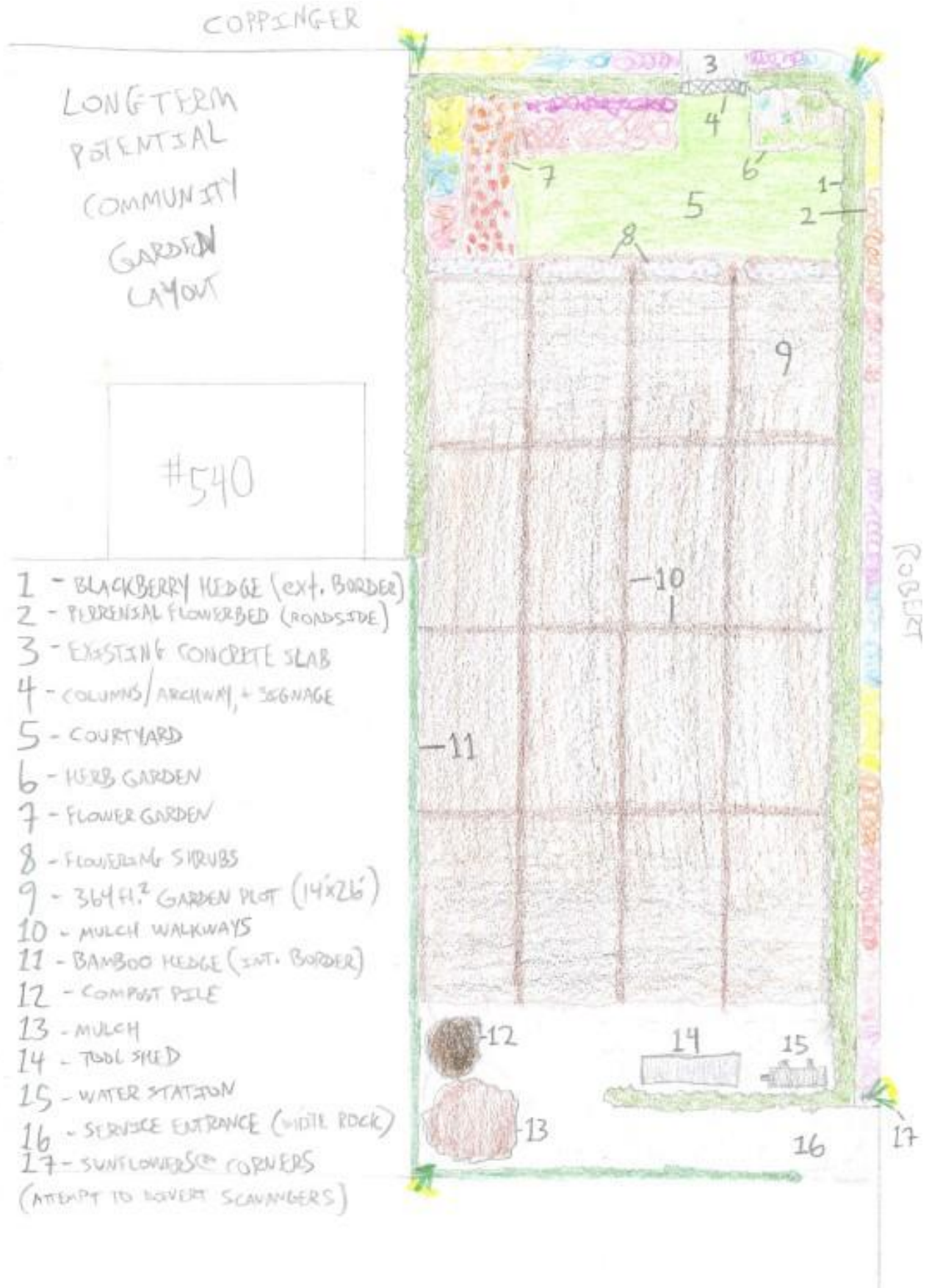
- Minimum number of students: 10
- Cost per workshop: \$9

How to Register:

To register with a credit card, check or money order, please call:

Harrison Education Center
4666 Natural Bridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63115
(314) 951-9850

Robert Superior



- 1 - BLACKBERRY HEDGE (ext. BORDER)
- 2 - PERENNIAL FLOWERBED (ROADSIDE)
- 3 - EXISTING CONCRETE SLAB
- 4 - COLUMNS/ARCHWAY, + SIGNAGE
- 5 - COURTYARD
- 6 - HERB GARDEN
- 7 - FLOWER GARDEN
- 8 - FLOWERING SHRUBS
- 9 - 364 FT.² GARDEN PLOT (14x26)
- 10 - MULCH WALKWAYS
- 11 - BAMBOO HEDGE (INT. BORDER)
- 12 - COMPOST PILE
- 13 - MULCH
- 14 - TOOL SHED
- 15 - WATER STATION
- 16 - SERVICE ENTRANCE (WHITE ROCK)
- 17 - SUNFLOWER SEED CORNERS (ATTEMPT TO CONVERT SCAVENGERS)

Old Ferguson West

