



## **Community Gardens Task Force January 26, 2010**

Attendees:

Chair: Alix Eastman, Growing Gardens; Lora Price, Friends of Community Gardens; Leslie Pohl-Kosbau, PPR; Jean Fike, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (EMSWCD), Tammy VanderWoude, Oregon Food Bank; Erica Stokes, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD); and Kim Travis, Oregon Solutions

### **I. Short re-cap of full OS group meeting**

- Commissioner Fish's Took Kit reviewed – some additions/edits recommended (add Friends of Community Gardens to list, add workshops, better navigation)

### **II. Additional Updates**

- Lisa Turpel/Parks have provided 20 hours of employee time to help Leslie with database entry and updating; Leslie is working with employee with the goal of having database updated by next Friday, 2/5
- Alix has reached out to Weston Miller about Master Gardeners as potential volunteer help and is awaiting a response

### **III. Phone Bank Discussion**

- Group decided that we should target city building as phone bank location, offered by Lisa Turpel
- Most seemed to agree that evening hours or even Saturdays would be the most efficient calling times
- Need a dedicated message line for phone bank call backs; messages to be checked each phone bank night or another volunteer
- Script to serve as information gathering tool – address/email updates, where interest in community gardens lies, yard situation, etc – and opportunity to direct wait list members towards Tool Kit
- When database is updated, Erica will email all wait list members with email addresses with script information to cut down on phone bank time
- Tracking responses – when database is updated, Leslie will export list into excel, split into 4-5 different worksheets (1 per computer), which will be updated by call volunteers each night; will re-connect at the end of process
- **Deliverables:**
  - a. Leslie and Alix developing script for calls and email format for email blast**
  - b. Tool Kit edits/additions – anyone interested in taking this on?**

- c. Alix to work with Lisa on location, dedicated message line and volunteers**
- d. When database is updated, Erica to send out email blast and track responses on exported excel list**
- e. Erica to draft protocol on handling the wait list documents to ensure efficient and confidential information transfers**

#### **IV. Next Steps**

- Faith-based options – inventory list of faith-based land in metro area; explore these potential partnerships
- Neighborhood Associations – reach out to these groups to communicate demand, instigate advocacy, and urge them to explore ways to meet demand
- Washington-Monroe and Fields – group picked out these 2 properties as potentials for development this year; need to develop proposal to really push this with Nick and Parks
- Funding – discussed Tax Increment Financing and SDCs; Tammi working with Emily Hicks through FPC on potential of SDC funding
- **Deliverables:**
  - a. Lora to reach out to Jenny Holmes at EM for additional information regarding faith-based list**
  - b. Kim to gather neighborhood association emails and provide to Erica for email blast**
  - c. Alix to reach out to Caitlin at Growing Gardens for advice on school opportunities**
  - d. Alix to review David Beller’s potential land contributions through his new organization and share with the group**
  - e. Lora to send information about “Planet Day of Service” and having landscape contractors help us develop any land that may come down the line**
  - f. Alix to begin Washington-Monroe/Fields proposal with input from group**

\*\*\* No additional meetings currently scheduled; agreed to communicate over email through February, with a potential conference call before the phone bank if needed; May schedule meeting in March

#### **Upcoming Dates/Deadlines**

Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – Email blast to go out to wait list members  
Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Phone bank to begin