



Community Gardens Resources Workgroup

Meeting Notes – November 16, 2009

Attendees: Nancy Stevens, Co-Chair; Erica Stokes, Laura Barton, Lora Price, Mary Bedard, Lissa Adams, Mary Anne Cassin, John Keating, Mara Reynolds, Nancy Bond

The meeting began a little after 3 pm with background on Friends of Portland Community Gardens from Mary Bedard and Lora Price. Friends has been in existence since 1986 with a mission to “promote greening and community gardens in Portland.” Funding provided by Friends to the city’s community gardens recently has focused on the children’s program. Friends currently has a “\$35,000 value,” has no staff, and is struggling with its own sustainability.

Nancy Stevens walked through a handout comparing a variety of information about the Portland Community Gardens program, P-Patch in Seattle, and Denver Urban Gardens. She also handed out a resource summary for the Portland Community Gardens program, and passed around a copy of pages from the city’s Climate Action Plan that show a goal of adding 1300 garden plots by 2012.

The workgroup then discussed the current business plan for Portland community gardens and began to build potential budget models.

Current model - \$250K annual budget
- Barely surviving!

Minimal Model
- improved operation and coordination of existing scope (32 gardens; app 1000 plots)
- \$500-\$600K annual budget
- expanded office space and staff
- begin implementation of business plan recommendations

Moderate Model
- add 1300 new plots (per Climate Action Plan recommendations)
- address waiting list issues
- \$500K - \$1M annual budget
- expand scope of programmatic and service options

- Maximum Model
- >\$1M annual budget
 - multiple revenue streams
 - regional model serving the greater Portland community

| | Current | Min | Mod | Max |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|-----|
| # served | 3,000 | 3,000 | 5,000 | |
| # on wait list | 1,300 | 1,300 | 0 | |
| # of gardens (plots) | 32(1000) | 32(1000) | 65(2000) | |
| # of staff (FTE) | 2 | 6 | 10 | |
| # of volunteers* | | | | |
| # of vehicles | | | | |
| Revenue | \$250K | \$500-600 K | | |
| Subsidy | \$178 | \$178 | | |
| Fees | \$72 | \$72 | | |
| Other | - | \$250-\$350 | | |
| Expenditures | \$250K | \$500-600 K | | |
| Personnel/Administration | | | | |
| Operations | | | | |
| Insurance | | | | |
| Water | | | | |
| Programs* | | | | |
| Business Plan Recommend'ns | | | \$1.1 M | |

The resources workgroup co-chairs with help from Stephanie and a couple of others will work on fleshing out this “straw dog” before the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at about 5:20 pm. Mary Anne agreed to work on estimates for volunteers and Mara agreed to draft some programmatic options for the different models.

Next Work Group Meeting: Monday, December 7, Noon (brown bag lunch) to 3 pm at the Food Innovation Center, 1207 NW Naito Parkway

Summary of Followup Assignments: **Stephanie** will contact P-Patch in Seattle to find out what kind of detailed/sensitive information they are willing to share, e.g. salaries. She will also talk with Dan Franek, who is now with Portland community gardens but used to be with P-Patch. **Nancy, Jill, Stephanie et al** will work on fleshing out info in the above matrix.