



Community Gardens Resources Workgroup

Meeting Notes – December 7, 2009

Attendees: Nancy Stevens and Jill Kuehler, Co-Chairs; Kellie Torres-Walker, Mara Reynolds, Laura Barton, Dick Springer, Lora Price, Mary Anne Cassin, Nancy Bond, David Beller, Lissa Adams, Erica Stokes

The meeting began shortly after noon with a discussion about the scope of the resource workgroup effort. Mention was made of the email link to Detroit's program sent out by Deb Lippolt as an example of a program for growing food that is more broad than a community gardens program. Stephanie said that the organizational structure workgroup is considering broad options, and mentioned the diagram Jason King shared at the full Oregon Solutions Team meeting on November 13. The diagram showed the universe of urban agriculture with community gardens as a part. The group agreed that resources can mean more than money. Laura Barton mentioned an untapped reservoir of land outside the city.

Nancy handed out the executive summary of the Food Systems portion of the Portland Plan and read from the community gardens portion of the full Food Systems document that Portland Parks and Recreation has not determined an appropriate level of service for the community gardens program. Mary Anne Cassin of the Parks Board said that was correct. Nancy suggested that perhaps the Parks Board could talk about that.

David Beller reported on the recent recommendation of the Food Policy Council (posted on the Oregon Solutions website) for the City to complete at least three capital improvements per year (by expanding existing gardens or building new ones) to provide 50 new plots per year. To accomplish the goal, increases to the community gardens budget of \$100,000-\$150,000 per year for capital improvements and \$5,000 per capital improvement for staffing and general maintenance were recommended by the FPC. The FPC also recommended that the City reduce water installation fees for community gardens.

Nancy and Jill reported on their meeting with Leslie Pohl-Kosbau to go over the community gardens Business Plan, and the group began a discussion of a proposed "minimum" and "moderate" program and budget for the City's community gardens program. The proposal considered the 09/10 community gardens budget, the program's

needs, the Business Plan, the P-Patch Program in Seattle, and the Denver Urban Garden Program. The group also felt that any budget proposal should reflect the Food Policy Council recommendations, the City's Climate Action Plan to increase garden plots by 2012, coordination with the Multnomah Food Initiative, and recommendations of the Portland Plan. The workgroup feels that attention for the immediate future is to get the City's community gardens program functional, as reflected in the *minimal* budget option.

City's Current Community Gardens Program and Budget (09/10)

Assumptions: *Current budget* is inadequate; relies on city general fund

City Size	533,000
#served/gardens	4,000/35 (3 gardens in spring 2010)
#on wait list	1300-1400
Sites/pop.	1:15,000
#of staff	2 plus 2 seasonal (Functions: Director, Botanist, Maintenance, Education)
09/10 Budget	\$255,000 (current)
Fee revenue	\$ 69,000
General fund	\$186,000 (73% of budget)
Other	-0-
Personnel	\$200,000
External Services	\$ 44,000
Internal Services	\$ 10,000
Capital	-0-

Proposed Community Gardens Program and Budget (Begins 7/1/10)

Assumptions: *Minimal budget* to meet program demands; reduces reliance on city general fund; builds alternative funding sources; consistent with Food Policy Council recommendations

City Size	533,000
#served/gardens	4,300/38 (add 3 gardens in addition to 3 in spring 2010)
#on wait list	1000-1100
Sites/pop.	1:14,000
#of staff	4 plus 2 seasonal (Functions: Director, Admin Support, Development, Maintenance, Education, Volunteer Coord.)
10/11 Budget	\$625,000
Fee revenue	\$ 75,000 (3 new gardens)
General fund	\$350,000 (56% of budget)
Other, e.g.	\$200,000
Friends	

OS Team
In-kind
Corporate
Fee for service

Personnel	\$280,000
External Services	50,000
Internal Services	15,000
Capital	\$280,000
Dump truck (\$35K)	
Fencing (\$25K)	
Signage (\$12K)	
Garden Development (\$208K)	

Unmet needs: Office space and storage space

Proposed Community Gardens Program and Budget (7/1/12)

Assumptions: **Moderate Budget** to eliminate waiting list per Climate Action Plan; plans for retirement of current Director; would accommodate office space, storage needs and existing resources in minimal budget above.

City size	533,000 (we need to get population estimates for 2012)
#served/gardens	5400/65
#on wait list	-0-
Sites/pop.	1:8,200
#of staff	6 plus 2-4 seasonal (Functions: Add Assistant Director and more maintenance to above)

2012/13 Budget \$1,000,000

The resources workgroup did not complete fleshing out moderate or maximum budgets; however, the group assumes that a maximum and possibly a moderate community gardens budget would reflect a much different organizational entity that could encompass the metropolitan area and include municipalities in addition to Portland.

The group also feels it is important to list out the accountabilities of the two community gardens partners – the City and Friends of Community Gardens. The lack of clarity about who is responsible for what is a contributing factor in the program not being adequately resourced. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Next Workgroup Meeting: Friday, January 15, 2010 from noon to 2 pm at the Food Innovation Center

Homework assignments: **Lora** is going to send Nancy and Jill the strategic plan and by-laws of Friends; **Jill** has volunteered to come up with a list of fundraising strategies