



Community Gardens Resources Workgroup

Meeting Notes – February 19, 2010

Attendees: Nancy Stevens and Jill Kuehler, Co-Chairs; Mara Reynolds, Lora Price, Lissa Adams, Mary Anne Cassin, Nancy Bond, Leslie Pohl-Kosbau

Facilitator: Stephanie Hallock, Oregon Solutions

The meeting began at noon with updates from group members. Stephanie reminded the group of upcoming meetings: the two task force phone banks, the Regional Food Network group; and, the full Oregon Solutions Team meeting. Mara reported that she is back doing the Children’s Garden program, thanks to support from Friends. Nancy Bond said that she and Marlys Mock have been pushing hard for garden support at Portland Public Schools and that new management in Facilities has been receptive to making space available. She said that a list of “strong possibilities” is in the works.

The group reviewed what is realistic for a 2010-11 budget for the community gardens program, given dollars projected to be available from the city and the current capacity of Friends to raise money.

Current Budget July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

PPR/City	\$300,000
Friends	<u>30,000</u>
TOTAL	\$330,000

Projected Budget July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011

PPR/City	\$300,000
Friends	<u>25,000 to \$100,000</u>
TOTAL	\$325,000 to \$400,000

The group had initially agreed that \$625,000 would be an optimal budget for 2010-2011, and \$1 million beginning in 2012. Since that does not appear to be feasible, the group

agreed that program activities need to be put in priority order for a budget of \$325,000 to \$330,000.

The group then discussed the need to make clear the division of roles and responsibilities between the city’s community gardens program and the Friends 501(c)(3). Funders will be concerned about stewardship of funds and clarity about what programs and activities the funds will support. It is important that each organization have a clear identity, mission, function, strategies, and programs. The group spent some time discussing the following relationship, summarized by Nancy Stevens from various planning documents:

PPR/ City Community Gardens Program

Friends 501(c)(3)

Mission

Build community through gardens; help people grow food in Portland

Support community gardens through advocacy and fund raising.

Function

Develop and maintain rentable land with water, fencing and support needed to reap harvest.

Improve and expand gardens Through fund raising, volunteer recruitment/coord., educational activities and events.

Strategic Initiatives

Manage/protect assets
Improve service delivery
Enhance capacity
Reach & involve community

Advocacy & partnerships
Engagement
Stewardship
Education

Programs**(see #2 below)

Develop & maintain garden plots
Produce for People
City Fruit

Children’s Garden
Hit the Dirt
Annual fundraising events

The group agreed that there is overlap between the two organizations on recruitment and use of volunteers, annual events, and education – roles and responsibilities need to be “teased” apart.

Lora Price commented that it makes sense for Friends to focus on programs and capital development as these are the activities that funders like to award, and that currently Friends lacks a distinct identity from the City’s community gardens program, both internally and to the broader public.

Stephanie raised the issue of whether “growing food in Portland” should be a stated part of the community gardens mission – it has not been and the group thought it should at least be mentioned. A discussion ensued about how to measure success in achieving the “building community” part of the mission statement, and it was suggested that looking at how the community centers measure success might provide some metrics.

The group agreed on the following set of recommendations:

1. The community gardens program and the Friends organization should complete the delineation of roles and responsibilities;
2. **As part of that delineation, program split between Friends and community gardens needs to be clear and program priorities need to be ranked;
3. A clear statement of identity is needed for both the Friends organization and the community gardens program;
4. The Friends organization should develop a written set of expectations and requirements for Board members and prospective Board members;
5. The city needs to be responsible for managing the city’s resources and dollars and Friends needs to be responsible for managing Friends resources and dollars – they should have separate accountabilities even if pursuing a shared purpose.

The group recognizes that to bring in more resources, serious capacity building is needed for the Friends group and the PPR/City Community Gardens program. Ideally, a budget of \$625,000 to \$1,000,000 to support the city’s community gardens program eventually will be obtainable.

The group adjourned at 2 pm and no further meetings are schedule.