



NLR Community Garden Committee Meeting

April 22, 2015, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Committee members present:

Baring Cross Community Garden (Janie and Ken Lumley)
First Presbyterian Church Community Garden (Robert Fisher)
NLR Fit 2 Live (Bernadette Gunn Rhodes, Beau Cooper)
NLR City Council (Beth White)
NLR Neighborhood Services (Dan Scott)
NLR Employee Garden (Jennifer Johansen)
Recovery Centers of Arkansas Garden (Dawn Smith)
Shorter College Community Garden (Harrison Johnson)
Skyline Community Garden (Diane Barton)
St. Joseph Center of Arkansas (Ruth and Scott Landers)
St. Patrick's Community Garden (Robby McAllister)

3:30-3:40 Welcome and introductions

3:40-3:55 Updates from garden managers

NLR Employee Garden

Strawberry plants overwintered. Planted 2 ollas for irrigation.

Recovery Centers of Arkansas Garden

Need to till lot with great deal of asphalt. Plan to plant ½ with sudan grass, ½ with larger rows and weed mat in between. Putting in 6 ollas, new strawberry patch. Goal to cultivate garden all year long. Dawn is now in charge. Mon, Wed, Fri: residents will weed/water/harvest as part of Lifestyle Program. Tues & Thurs: Maintenance staff will water. Renting tractor with front end loader & tiller. Scott Landers volunteered to operate tractor. Thanks, Scott!!!

Baring Cross Community Garden

Currently educating community on what community garden is. Seeing lots of picking from private beds & unripe produce. Put out signs designating public and private beds. Keep committee informed about how effective signs are. This year, less than ½ of 33 plots occupied. 25-30% of beds being worked. 4x8' and 4x16' plots available. Summit Church has work day this weekend. Installing 6 benches. Thursday night Bible study in the garden. Facebook page: "Baring Cross Community Garden."

Skyline Community Garden

5 families have private plots, rest are community beds. All full. Signs to be painted. Orchard is mulched. Carrots, beets, and radishes doing well.

First Presbyterian Church Community Garden

Merger with Argenta Community Garden. Slow progress on rebuilding beds. Existing beds planted, all private beds occupied. Planting bean poles & tall crops (okra) along perimeter to create enclosure. Berries doing well.

St. Patrick's Community Garden

Built 12 4x8' beds, 10 occupied so far, 5 by church members, 5 by community. Neighborhood organizers interested in project as a way to take their community back. Plans to double or triple in size next year.

Shorter College Community Garden

4 of 6 beds planted. AR GardenCorps brought mulch and compost. ACC and students helped prepare beds. More students interested than expected. Staff and students excited about beautification. Need step ladders to step up into beds, and pavers to walk around in beds.

St. Joseph Community Garden

2nd set of ten 10x15' beds constructed and occupied. Greenhouse space available. Used huge pile of compost that the City had delivered. Have 1,000 cubic yards of woodchip mulch to share from tree trimming service.

NOTE Source for inexpensive cypress lumber: Bates Saw Mill, Monticello. \$1/board ft. vs. normal retail price, \$3.80/board ft. Pick up in Monticello, or they MAY deliver if they're driving here anyway for a delivery.

NOTE Free woodchip mulch for pickup at St. Joseph Center. Contact: Scott Landers, 240-7709.

NOTE To combat fire ants: 1.5 oz. citrus orange oil (available at Farmers Co-op), 4.5 oz. Dawn soap, 3 gallons water.

3:50-4:00 Updates from Arkansas GardenCorps (Beau)

Volunteer log: Beau will email.

Herb workshop with Main Street Apothecary was very successful, had 10+ participants.

Alana, AR GardenCorps member formerly in LR, serving with Beau and Sharice Tuesdays and Thursdays at Cooking Matters and ROCAN.

4:00-4:10 Updates on funded projects (Bernadette)

Open P.O.s

First Presbyterian Church Community Garden (Spring 2014)

Current on reporting. After receiving final report by the March 31st deadline, we discovered that Fit 2 Live was still holding an open P.O. for this project for the final quarter of funding (\$875). Robert Fisher advised that funds were no longer need this round, so Bernadette has voided the P.O. and returned the \$875 to Fit 2 Live's garden budget. First Presbyterian plans to apply for another funding round when needed.

The Field (Fall 2014)

Issued first quarter check only (\$750). Received no mid-term report by Jan. 30 deadline. Holding open P.O. for remainder (\$2,250). Approved budget for refrigeration unit. No update on progress.

E 2nd St Community Garden (Fall 2014)

Current on reporting. Issued first two checks (\$500). Received mid-term report by Jan. 30 deadline. On track to spend and report by July 31 final deadline.

Other Items

Vestal Urban Farming Project (Fall 2013)

Under management from ACTS Ministries. Issued final \$2904.92 out of 2013 P.O. to ACTS in November 2014 for the construction of a utility barn. No progress since then. Bernadette following up.

4 The Youth Community Garden (Fall 2014)

Issued check for entire funding amount (\$2,000) based on price quote provided. Received mid-term report by Jan 30 deadline. No progress has been made on project so far, except for pile of dirt on property. Beau has emailed to follow up.

4:10-4:25 Discussions

- Volunteer opportunities & ways to become involved: held until next meeting
- Community/business partnerships: Bernadette, Beau, and Sharice will visit Plantopia next Monday, April 27.
- Garden tour with Mayor and City Council: Target early to mid-June.

4:25-4:26 Announcements

- Plant starts available: broccoli, kale, chamomile, lemon balm, flowers
- Tomato workshop: Saturday, May 16, 10:00am-12:00pm, location TBD
- Next garden meeting: Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 3:30-4:30 PM

4:26-4:30 Public comment

None.