



COMMUNITY GARDENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 16, 2010
TIME: 6:30pm
PLACE: Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

1. **Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Tim Bowler at 6:35pm. Attendees were:

Tim Bowler - Main Street Gardener – Chairperson
Don Singer – Park Drive Gardener – Committee Representative
Radana Mikes – Park North Gardener – Committee Representative
Lisa Goodwin – Park Drive Gardener – Committee Representative
Cordula Ohman – Main Street Gardener – Committee Representative
Silvia Carillo – Euclid Park Gardener – Committee Representative
Jeff Jarow – Main Street Gardener – Committee Representative
Marie Carmine – Main Street Gardener – Committee Representative
Sharon Shirotnak – Euclid Gardener
Debbie Smith – Euclid Park Workshop Plot Gardener
David Fetterman – Wait List Member
Norma Bonilla – Community Member creator of Venice Community Garden
Lisa Olson – Park Drive Gardener
Sharon Powell – Main Street Gardener
Carol Hetrick – Park Drive Gardener
Cris Gutierrez – Main Street Gardener
Charles Grubbs – Main Street Gardener
Howard Gimbrone – Park Drive Gardener
Jack Walter – Lionsgate Project Developer
Wendy Pietrzak – City Staff – Community Recreation
Renee Nielsen – City Staff – Community Recreation

2. **Approval of Minutes from July 6, 2010**

A motion was made by Lisa Goodwin to approve the minutes from July 6, 2010. Second was made by Radana Mikes and passed unanimously.

3. **Report on the Department of Sustainability Task Force Meeting, Cris Gutierrez – Item was take out of order**

Cris distributed a memo with highlights of previous Task Force on the Environment meetings and gave an overview of what the task force does. Cris recommended the Garden Committee create a presentation for the Task Force at a future meeting about the community garden program and members agreed.

Key concerns for the gardeners as outlined in the overview are the food sustainability priority, the goal of water self-sufficiency, the single-use plastic bag ban, the bike master plan, and widening the understanding of sustainability throughout the City and region.

Cris announced the following dates – December 20th presentation at Task Force meeting of Nature Rights Movement and January fourth workshop for the Civic Center Way Plan.

For more information on the EFT, people can contact Cris directly at cristeach@earthlink.net

4. **Presentation of Lionsgate Development Project and inclusion of community garden plots, Jack Walter, Managing Partner, Colorado Creative Studios**

Jack Walter gave a presentation on the proposed development project between private entity, Lionsgate, and the City of Santa Monica to be located at Stewart and Colorado to potentially include (43), 10'x10' garden plots. He explained the gardens would be managed by Lionsgate staff using the approved City garden rules and regulations with some changes (e.g. no structure allowed such as water feature, chairs, umbrellas) and use the City's current waiting list to fill the spaces. Jack anticipates the garden space, if approved, would be up and running in 2015.

Jack reported they are hoping to bring the development proposal before City Council in January or February and would like to solicit input from the community gardeners on how the plots should be designed and managed.

Several gardeners volunteered to meet.

5. **Discussion of Presentation to the Recreation and Parks Commission, Tim Bowler**

Tim reported he felt there is a need to solidify the relationship with the Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC). He felt the RPC was out of touch with what the community gardens are all about; how integral the gardens are to the community and the goal of a sustainable City; have no idea how long the waiting list has become; and needs to advocate for more community gardens as new park projects come on board or park renovations take place. A presentation is needed to emphasize that gardening is not just a recreational thing but is part of the City's sustainability plan.

A committee consisting of Tim Bowler, Cris Gutierrez and Sharon Shirotnak will work on putting the Power Point Presentation together with assistance from Wendy.

6. **Staff Updates**

Garden Inspections: Wendy reported 12 violations at Main St., 6 at Park Drive, 1 at Euclid. Two gardeners violated out at Main Street and those plots have been filled. All three sites are currently at full capacity.

Euclid Garden Work Shop Plots: Wendy explained that the three small workshop plots located at Euclid will be filled by gardeners from the waiting list and explained the process. Gardeners will enter into non-transferable, non-renewable one year License Agreements with the City at the annual \$60.00 fee and will abide by all rules and regulations.

Garden Sharing Registry: Wendy reported the program is status quo and additional marketing and outreach will need to occur in the future. This item will be placed on the next agenda to discussion and input on ways to creatively market the program and make the program more successful.

Partner with JAMS Science Magnet Program: Wendy reported that a partnership has been created matching students from the Science Magnet program with three gardeners from the waiting list to grow and harvest edibles in (6) previously unused raised garden beds located on campus. They will also participate in 6-8 scheduled seminars on various topics related to the gardens. Two seminars have occurred on soil preparation and composting and worm bins.

Euclid Park and Park Drive: Wendy reported the City's Recycling and Refuse Department has added green waste cans to both sites. The old compost bins were replaced by two new compost tumblers.

Renewing License Agreement: Wendy announced that License Agreement renewals for 2011 are due by December 1, 2010. Gardeners need to notify the City in writing their intent to exercise the option to extend their Agreement one more year. Gardeners who do not respond by December 1st may have their Agreement terminated.

7. Public Input

David Fetterman, waiting list gardener, mentioned the City should provide a contract that would be entered into with the Garden Assistant Registry Program. Wendy explained the City is not a party to any arrangements made between the Gardener and Assistant and the assistants volunteer solely at the discretion of the licensed gardener who may terminate the relationship at any time.

Norma Bonilla, community member, asks if anyone knows of any private land or landowner interested in providing a community garden to contact her to discuss.

8. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.