

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2009

Meeting Minutes: DU Bridge Garden Steering Committee

Monday April 6, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m. - Driscoll Center Fireside Room

Student Attendees: Katia Gardia-Smith, Eleanor Hooper, Donna Jesenovec, Kristin Kernan, Emily Susanin, Ben Waldman

Faculty Attendees:

Community Attendees: Eileen Abbattista, Pam Marquez, Gail Neujahr, Donna Peterson

Status of garden design: Michael Buchenau delivered the draft garden layout at the DUG Garden Leaders event on Tuesday, March 31. Ben sent a scanned file to the GSC list-serve. The response was overwhelmingly positive with only a few revisions suggested. A twelfth plot will be added (during Phase II) where the community plot at the front of the garden is currently shown. This will be the raised-bed/wheelchair accessible plot. The committee decided to use white picket fencing along the eastern border/sidewalk and continuing along the southeast property line. This will be continuous with the existing fence along the north of the garden. The bridge structure can be used as part of the fence near the entrance/signage to give a visual reinforcement of the "bridge" theme. The existing chain link fence sections will be used to fence the garden from the alley. This will allow access for deliveries, but provide security until a permanent solution is found. The space at the northwest end of the garden definitely has room for a lean-to attached to the eastern face of the existing garage. After viewing a documentary about urban renewal in Philadelphia (see DUG Event notes below), Ben proposed incorporating murals on the walls of the garage.

Schedule for Student/Community Work Day: The first major work day is set for April 11th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ben and Kristin have honed the logistics, based on the "Kaboom Build" model. The University Facilities department assured Ben that permits won't be an issue. Facilities will also be grading and terracing the property beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8.

There was discussion of the projects to be completed and the work flow of the day. Ben provided these details and more in an e-mail on April 9, 2009. For the sake of brevity, that e-mail will be incorporated into these minutes. Sufficient tools and supplies are critical to getting a great deal of work accomplished and the following are requested from the community: work gloves; safety goggles (may source from the Science Dept. or Facilities); sawhorses; shovels; trench picks; wheelbarrows; cordless screwdrivers/screw guns; 4' level; framing hammers; post diggers. Owners should clearly mark their tools so that they can be safely returned. In addition to coffee and bagels, Donna P. has secured donations of sandwiches, veggie trays, fruit

& cookies for lunch. Eileen will bring popsicles in the afternoon. There will be a “staging area” at the Towers dorm for volunteer sign-in, food breaks, restroom facilities, etc. There will be a prep session on Friday, April 10 at 3 p.m. Attendance of this session is mandatory for project team leaders.

DUG Garden Leaders Event March 31: Ben, Gail and Saiya attended this kickoff to the community gardening season at the Denver Botanic Gardens. There were many enthusiastic and experienced garden leaders in attendance. Michael Buchenau highlighted the Bridge Garden among the several new DUG gardens under construction this season. Attendees learned of many DUG resources that are available and took home helpful information for developing a successful community garden. The PBS documentary “Edens Lost and Found: Philadelphia” was screened and provided much inspiration, included the above-mentioned idea for adding art to the Bridge Garden in the form of murals. This would be another way to expand the reach of the garden. Locally, a short documentary, “Growing Gardens for Healthy Communities” is being filmed by Joe Brown (who is also a grad student at DU). Joe will be visiting the Bridge Garden over the course of the season to incorporate its “story” into the documentary. Ace Hardware supports DUG and community gardeners with 10% discounts on garden-related merchandise. Ben has a supply of discount cards for Bridge Gardeners.

Membership Status: Eileen had no changes to report since our meeting on March 30.

Communication/Web site: Pam plans to change some of the navigation on www.projectduet.com to be Bridge Garden specific. She expects to perform weekly updates. Please send her any content, pictures, ideas, etc. Also alert her to any problems e.g. broken links. Her e-mail is psmarquez@gmail.com. When we are a bit further along we can link from DUG’s web site to the projectduet site.

Food: Thanks to Eileen for the delicious, diverse and healthy snacks provided at the meeting.

Mission Statement: Donna J. has prepared two documents to capture ideas from the committee and interested students and community members in order to develop a mission statement for the Bridge Garden. Both documents are included with the distribution of these minutes. Please take some time to record your thoughts on defining our mission and return them to Donna in advance of our next meeting.

Next meeting: We will decide our next meeting date following the work day on April 11th.

All the ideas, dreams and plans are about to become reality! Thanks for everyone’s efforts.

Gail Neujahr & Ben Waldman