

Meeting Minutes

Monday April 27, 2009

Student Attendees: Katia Gardia-Smith, Ben

Community Attendees: Eileen Abbattista, Gail Neujahr, Donna Peterson

Status of garden: Clearly, the design is becoming reality! The April 25th workday produced incredible results with the south half of the retaining wall completed, plots defined/bordered in brick and crusher fine gravel spread atop landscape cloth along pathways. There have been a few necessary alterations to the original plan, most noticeably a reduction in the size of the communal garden space located mid-lot and some minor plot dimension changes. The shed floor (dimensions = 8' x 12') is built. It was agreed to use corrugated metal for the shed roof. Also, the committee agreed that the bridge should be a visual element near the front of the garden to reinforce the "Bridge Garden" moniker, but it will not be rebuilt to withstand actual use. A grill will be added to the community gathering area. The plots contain quite a bit of gravel. Gail will build screens to help sift gravel from the soil.

Schedule for Additional Work Days: The list of remaining projects is only one page (Ben to send under separate cover), but important tasks remain to be accomplished. Two additional work days are scheduled for Saturday May 2 and Saturday May 9. Work will commence both days at 9 a.m. with coffee and bagels provided. Participants are asked to bring a brown-bag lunch, water, snacks, etc. Please come and help for as many hours as schedules allow. Anyone who helped on the 11th or 25th knows the rewards are fun, community building and a huge sense of accomplishment.

Garden Dedication Set for May 16: A dedication celebration will be held on May 16 at 1 p.m. Zoe Turill is coordinating the event. Committee members should e-mail Zoe (lturrill@du.edu) with ideas/suggestions for invitees (University faculty & administration, DUG staff, district city council members, etc). We'll give garden tours and serve cake. Donna is sharing her recipe for "worm cake" and we'll have a few of those on hand also.

Membership Status: Eileen and Ben will meet to ensure that all interested/pending garden plot holders are included on this list-serve. Plot holders are especially encouraged to lend a hand on work days. There is a need to identify more students who are interested in partnering with community members to adopt a plot. Eileen will determine the number remaining and Ben will advertise the opportunity.

Communication: Gail will post the upcoming work days as events on Facebook.

“Gardening Through the Season” Workshops: The first workshop was held on April 25th at the South Grant Street Community Garden (1700 S. Grant). Despite the frigid temperature, there were 19 attendees for the session on soil preparation and high-yield gardening techniques. Gail will scan and e-mail the handout that John Hershey used in the presentation. The next workshop, “Successful Composting” is scheduled for May 16 from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Bridge Garden (immediately following the dedication).

Mission Statement: We set a goal of crafting the mission statement in time to share it on Dedication Day (May 16). Please send your thoughts (document attached to help you organize same) to Donna Jesenovec (donna.jesenovec@du.edu) at your earliest convenience. We can then work on the MS at the May 4 meeting (see below).

Next meeting: There will be an organizational meeting on May 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Driscoll Fireside Room for all of the 2009 gardeners. It is extremely important to attend this meeting to review garden guidelines and complete necessary paperwork. We’ll also take part in the “Speed Dating” exercise to decide student/community member teams for each plot.

The Steering Committee will also meet on May 11 at 7:30 in the Driscoll Fireside Room to finalize plans for the dedication celebration.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Neujahr & Ben Waldman