

## **Minutes of the Community Garden Partners meeting 09.09.09**

We started the meeting with an exercise by Susan. Susan asked those present to describe what drew them to the role they are now playing in the “movement.” Some brief notes follow on individual comments by all of those in attendance.

Diane Beth: Cleveland family garden, meets Lucy, drawn in as state fruit and veggie coordinator, focus now on obesity prevention and gardening “fits” that goal.

Michelle Wallace: grew up on kibbutz, worked in orchards and vineyards in high school. Strong interest in working and gardening with people. Learned about community gardening as landscape gardener/community design student at State.

Susan Jakes: vibrant colors in gardens and memories of grandparents gardens drew her, introduced to community gardening through work in integrated programming in Extension, may be starting community gardening in Trinity Park, likes idea of people coming together to work for a common purpose.

Jeanne Aller: master gardener, not much gardening happening until container gardening in NYC as an adult, as mg has become very involved in community gardening outreach.

Maria Hitt: grew up in avid gardening family, not really as gardener but over time with rest of family have started growing, in 1978 in Chapel Hill, surviving, lived in house with big garden and grew to stay alive, started own plot in Austin community gardening. Got involved next in Carrboro community gardening efforts and has big garden that she loves.

Keith Baldwin: broke into Extension in late seventies in community and school gardening, has been keeping a “hand in” ever since.

Brenda Brodie: nurse by training, but interested in prevention. Exposed as mom in CA and back to land movement. Always gardening and recycling. When moved here, brought people here to Durham extension office curb market. Started SEEDS when husband said go for it. Had friend from Santa Cruz agroecology program who became first coordinator, and she first board director

Mary Brennan: early family connection and recently working in school gardening program with 9-week high school project, now involved in Kernersville community gardening, very excited, especially with intergenerational opportunities and glad to be part of meeting.

Don Bodelheide (sp).: first thing remembers, came to mountains in Franklin to take care of grannie, told to start hoeing garden, though long rows, cousins exalted that he didn’t hoe like a yankee, back to LA and gardening classes in high school, changed his life, as UC Santa Barbara student heard about a community garden on urban lot where coordinator had Alan Chadwick connection in Santa Cruz, very diverse population of

gardeners opened his eyes to diversity opportunities associated with community gardening, sees community gardening as common ground.

Lucy Bradley: grew up hating gardening, dad had 40 acres and professorship, interested in process not yield and forced labor on kids which seemed pointless to her, now that away from dad, the power of gardening has taken over, especially working in central Phoenix with elementary school for environmental education and gardening as an outdoor lab, had a planning meeting that was awesome where diverse audience of folks came in ready to work who never had come to school before.

With that, the formal meeting began. Lucy apologized for sending out wrong meeting minutes from our last encounter. The correct minutes are now posted on the community gardening website. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes.

Old business was addressed. Diane announced that a press release for new document primer is getting good coverage. She has 10 copies for everyone at the meeting (or more), Unfortunately doesn't have postage for sending a lot of them out through the mail.

Lucy provided a Z. Smith Reynolds update. Feedback from the funding agency didn't suggest it likely a proposal would be funded. . Michelle knows folks there and will call in a favor if we can tell her what the "ask" is. The basic proposal is funding for hub gardens. These would be connected loosely with CYFAR gardens. We are also interested in establishing a coordinator position to have someone "take charge." A third objective is building the website with database and other resource info. A searchable database would be great.

Diane communicated to those assembled that one of our functions for the day is the establishment of working groups. Funding, in particular, is something we would like to focus on. We were fortunate to have two students recently, who put together a grant template. We have been approaching funding for community gardening from a sustainability standpoint, but it's hard to find grants that would provide for infrastructure.

Don provided thanks for the great publication. P2Pays is being used to distribute the product in Charlotte. The rationale is that composting can happen (education) at community garden sites. Other "waste folks" may be good resources to pursue with respect to funding.

Other potential funders include: Blue Cross Blue Shield (Brenda); Heifer International also may be a choice in 2010 (Maria); Burt's Bees/Habitat for Humanity connection in Durham (Michelle).

It was noted to send any potential funding contacts to Keith (Maria said she would help)...

The last old business was a Farm to Fork update, provided by Lucy. She's talked to Nancy Creamer about goings on at F2F. There has been a meet, but hasn't had chance to

talk about it at any length with Nancy. Keith says there was some interest at a recent meeting by potential funders from Golden LEAF and Tobacco Trust Fund.

Don added informally that Tes Thaves came through Charlotte and took interest in community gardening there.

Keith gives his ppt presentation on past Partners efforts (previous year convocation at the Arboretum) and projected activities. Diane says we are trying to connect the dots among the original working teams and not blame individuals for work that has not taken place so far. Mary and Don take their leave. Susan has exited.

Diane invited others to participate in the executive committee. She describes who the new workgroup leaders are: Lucy (website), Keith (funding), Susan (conference and/or symposium), and Diane (new survey, hub gardens?).

Craig Mauney (CE Forsyth), Karen Neill, master community gardeners from Forsyth, and master gardeners from Guilford are planning a conference on community gardening. Seeds is planning a meeting on building community capacity (Jeffery Haupt?/Blue Cross/Blue Shield has leadership).

Michelle has been working hard in Durham with community gardening. She mentioned an underutilized resource to help in that effort (but I didn't catch the reference). The Briggs Ave. Garden Project has an initial plan outlined and there will be a planned community forum for input in two weeks.

Diane asked Michelle to commit to a group. Since she has her own hub she is trying to fund, the funding workgroup may be the best option.

nccommunitygarden.ning.com is a site Lucy is playing with. She provided a quick lesson on how to use it.

Maria will help with funding. A teleconference format works best for her. She can provide time to look for or review proposals.

There was some discussion with Michelle about how to get the Durham garden info into the website.

The last agenda item for the day was assigning the next meeting date. The suggested date is Wednesday, December 9th from 9-11. Though we could do it again in Durham, we decided to leave the location open for now.

The meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Keith R. Baldwin, scribe.