

**CITY OF FIRCREST
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 18, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FIRCREST CITY HALL, 115 RAMSDALL STREET**

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Matthew Jolibois called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the pledge of allegiance. Councilmembers Blake Surina, Shannon Reynolds, Hunter T. George and Jason Medley were present. Councilmembers Brett Wittner and Denny Waltier were excused.

Presentation and discussion on a potential community garden in Fircrest

Jenny Stryker, WeDig Fircrest, turned the presentation over to Alice Dionne, Master Gardener and committee member. Dionne outlined her role in starting the City of University Place's (UP) Community Garden in 2010, noting that in the first year there was only one winter gardener; in 2012 there were 25 gardeners and families; and by 2015 there were over 60 beds on site. Dionne highlighted a grant that was received for composting and reported on the educational benefits of a Community Garden to the community that also involves students in the planting and participation in the Community Gardens. Dionne noted that it was thanks to the Rotary president for making this UP Community Garden happen and concluded with pictures of productive harvests from their garden.

Kristen McIvor, Harvest Pierce County, spoke about the benefits of Community Gardens, noting they are projects in which people work together and in partnership with organizations to create a more, just, healthy and sustainable food system consisting of three components: Community, Food and the Environment. McIvor outlined her role to community gardens as an additional layer of support and an intermediary. Responding to an inquiry if there are Community Gardens on any public well sites, Master Gardener Christine Gregorich commented that the Fox Island Community Garden is located on the Fox Island Mutual Water Association property, and near a pump house.

Discussion continued as follows:

- Community Garden participants typically do not use any herbicides or pesticides
- Community Gardens participants typically pay for their own water through the fees they pay to maintain their beds
- Public agencies typically take care of the insurance requirements
- If public land is used for a Community Garden, it is possible to avoid the gifting of public funds issue if it is used for the 'social good'
- Community Gardens sized to accommodate only 20 raised beds or less struggle to maintain the critical mass needed (fixed work needed, i.e., managing the money, managing the plots, handling the communication)
- Many times gardeners maintain two plots each, so if there are 50 beds there are a lot more individuals available for work parties
- Gardens have different needs relative to how tidy they need to be maintained, as some are on very busy intersection and are highly visible

Harry Hayward and Christine Gregorich, Master Gardeners, presented an overview of desired locations in Fircrest for a Community Garden. Hayward outlined site selection criteria for Community Gardens and described the sizes and benefits of the following desirable locations:

- Fircrest United Methodist Church
- Lynn Morasch's lot located off of Spring Street
- Fircrest City Park
- The Well 6/7 site on Claremont Street

Stryker concluded the presentation by outlining how historically WeDig Fircrest was started and outlined the benefits of a Community Garden to a community.

Discussion continued as follows:

- The Community Gardens would typically be open to Fircrest residents initially but ultimately could include residents from other communities
- Consider using the Public Works buffer area as an additional site to consider
- Residents that live adjacent to potential Community Garden sites should be contacted and informed of a possible garden locating in their neighborhood
- Parking could be an issue if a Community Garden is placed on Claremont Street
- It is common for work parties and events to occur at Community Gardens, but other than that, gardeners come and go with little notice to surrounding neighborhoods

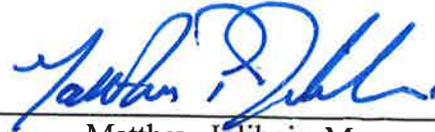
It was suggested that the next step is to communicate with the Administration to start setting things up and discuss locations, insurance and related issues.

Discussion, consensus and direction on RCO Grant application

Rosenblatt stated there was Council consensus at the previous meeting to proceed with submitting a grant application to RCO, and because of the time constraints with the May 1, 2016 deadline, it was suggested that Bob Droll, ASLA, be contacted to request his assistance with the application. Rosenblatt noted that Bob Droll quoted approximately \$7,400 to write and submit the grant, and due to that amount, requested Council input on the proposal. Parks and Recreation Director Grover outlined the RCO grant criteria. It was suggested that the Feasibility Study come to fruition before it is decided to go forward with applying for any RCO grant, and to discuss as a group and prioritize what is desired, along with the funding sources for each of the desired projects. Discussion continued about being prepared for the next grant cycle and there was consensus to not go forward at this time with an RCO grant application.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by George, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 P.M. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Jolibois, George and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Wittner and Waltier. Motion carried.



Matthew Jolibois, Mayor



Lisa Keely, City Clerk