

**City of Fircrest
City Council Special Meeting
Study Session
Agenda**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

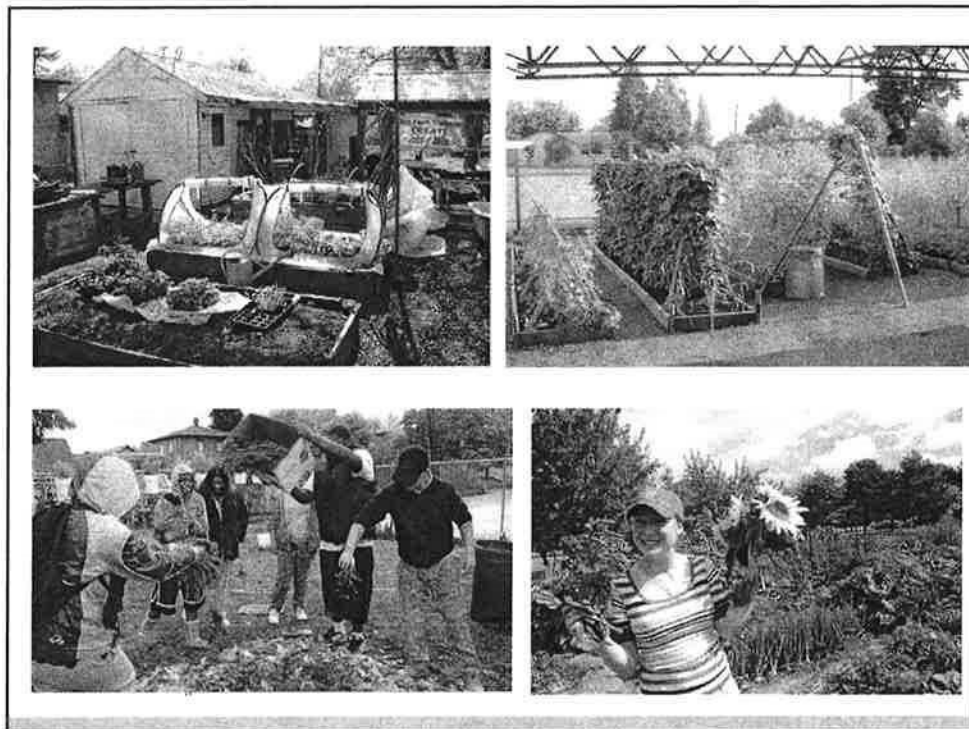
**Council Chambers
Fircrest City Hall, 115 Ramsdell Street**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Agenda Modifications**
- 5. Presentation, discussion and direction on a community garden in Fircrest**
- 6. Discussion, review and direction on unfreezing the budget allocation for the staff grant writer position – City Manager Rosenblatt/Public Works Director Wakefield**
- 7. Adjournment**

Item 5

**Presentation, discussion and direction on a
community garden in Fircrest**

February 21, 2017



Where will our garden grow?

Agenda for tonight

- **Community Food Projects 5 min**
Kristen McIvor, Harvest Pierce County
- **Site selection criteria 10 min**
Harry Hayward, Master Gardener
- **WeDig Fircrest 10min**
Christine Gregorich, organizer
- **Discussion 20 min**

Community food project

A Project in which people are working together and in partnership with organizations to create a more just, healthy and sustainable food system.

It has these components:

- Community
- Food
- Environment

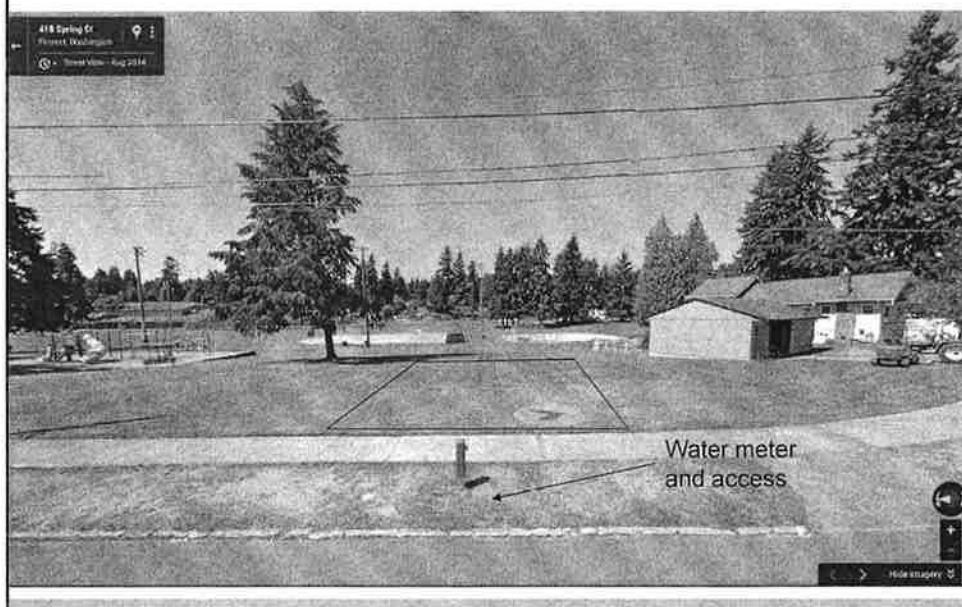


Site Selection criteria

- Visibility to the community
- Access for gardeners
- Sun availability
- Land owner considerations
 - water
 - insurance
 - soils

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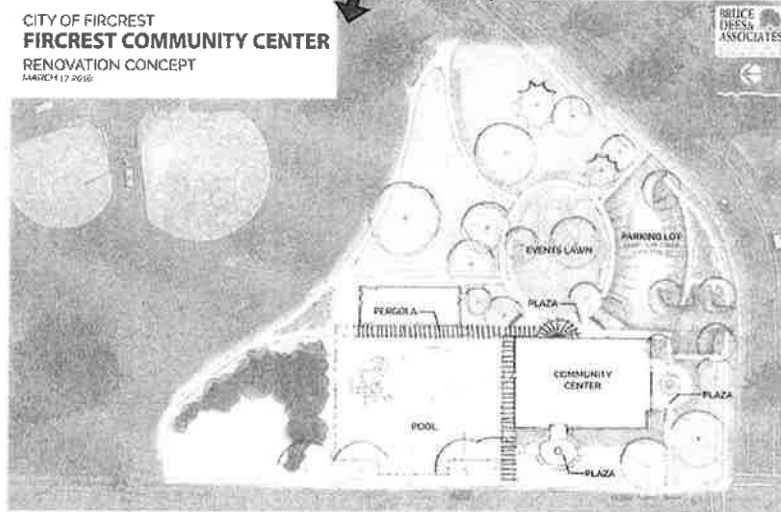
Fircrest City Park



City Park Master plan concept

CITY OF FIRCREST
FIRCREST COMMUNITY CENTER
RENOVATION CONCEPT
MARCH 17 2016

Community Garden



ROY H. MURPHY COMMUNITY CENTER AND POOL

Fircrest Park site

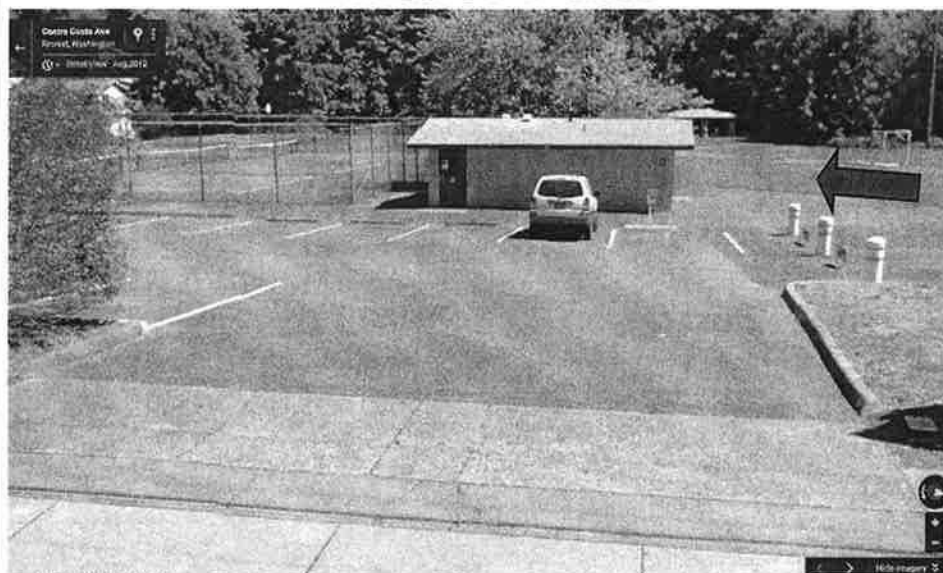
- Plot size appx 75 feet by 75 feet
- Sunshine - All day sun, open in all directions. Fir tree on South side.
- Water – Meter from previous house.
- Gardener access – Street parking on Spring St.
- Delivery access – Driveway from previous house still in parking strip.

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Whittier Park



Whittier Park



Whittier Park

- Plot size appx. 60 feet by 80 feet. (16 plots)
- Sunshine - 6-8 hours year round
- Water – City sprinkler system, high volume
- Gardener access –Whittier Park lot, 30 spaces
- Delivery access – Bollards near restroom can be removed for dump access to site

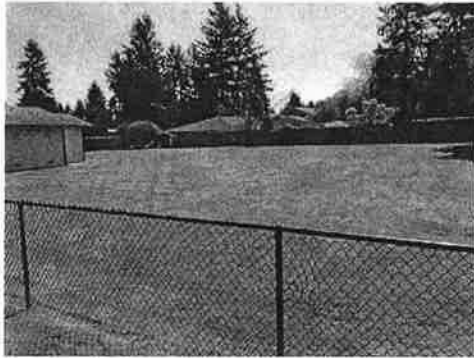
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Claremont Pump house



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Claremont Pump house



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Claremont Pump house

- Plot size = 60 feet by 100 feet. (16-18 plots)
- Sunshine - 6-8 hours year round
- Water – City sprinkler system, low pressure
- Gardener access –Street parking on Claremont St. and 63rd Ave West
- Delivery access – Rear gate on property.

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	Claremont Pump House	Whittier Park	Fircrest City Park
Size	45' x 60'	60'x80'	75' x 86'
Sun	6-8 hours/day year round	6-8 hours/day year round	All day sun
Water	City sprinkler system in lawn	City Sprinkler system in lawn	City meter from house that was previously on the site
Access	Street parking on Claremont and 63 rd Ave West	Whittier Park lot, 30 spaces	Street parking around park
Delivery	Through back gate	Through parking lot	Driveway from previous house still in parking strip

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Benefits of Community Garden

- Increased sense of community ownership and stewardship
- Bring people together from a wide variety of backgrounds
- Encourage and build community leaders
- Provide opportunities for neighbors to meet neighbors
- Encourage and promote social and cultural diversity
- Offer educational opportunities
- Create health benefits
- Provide grow space for those who do not have space on their property
- Combat hunger, provide habitat, reinforce school lessons

WeDig Fircrest

- History
- Vision
- Where are we today
- What the garden needs to get started

What the garden needs

- Water
- Fencing - Whittier and City Park
- Gate – Claremont pump house
- Building materials - private donations or service clubs
- Planting soil and wood chips – Harvest

Pierce County

University Place Community Garden

www.universityplacecommunitygarden.org/



60 raised beds



CO-located with
Evergreen primary school

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Food bank donations
in 2016
3,000 pounds

Questions and Answers

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Master Gardener Program

Thank You!

Christine Gregorich - WeDig Fircrest Garden

wedigfircrest@gmail.com, Chris.gregorich@Comcast.net

Kristen McIvor - Harvest Pierce County

kristenm@piercecountycd.org

Harry Hayward - WSU Master Gardener

hhayward2.0@gmail.com

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MAY 31 2016

RECEIVED

5/29/2016

Dear Sirs;

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed community garden at the Claremount well house site. We have lived at 1208 West Mount Drive for the passed 35 years. Our property is adjacent to the well house property, on the south end. Currently our best neighbor is the well house, as no one lives there and there is no public access. People are not running though the property and currently there is no one trying to break into the well house to see what's inside.

A community garden is not what we signed up for. When we bought this property, we went to the city and asked about the future use of the well house site. We were told the site would never be developed as long as the well house remained. Would this new project make our property less desirable?

We are not sure who is proposing this garden, and wondering why the city has not officially informed us of the proposal. We have heard nothing from the city, only concerns from an informed neighbor.

Where is this information coming from and why have we not been officially informed, as it will affect our current living conditions? We are sure no one wants to live near a place, that has people constantly coming and going and they don't even live in the neighborhood. The City Park or Whittier field would be a much better site for the garden, as they have existing facilities such as restrooms, water, and adequate parking.

Our concerns are as follows:

Where is the proposed garden going to get its water and who is paying for it? There is currently no spicket outside the well house. Will the taxpayers foot the bill for providing a spicket and meter? Who will monitor it usage? Who will patrol the water usage? Will the gardeners leave it to run all night long? Who will control access and will the current fencing come down to allow access or will the city be installing a new access-egress gate off of Claremount?

Where will the outhouses be placed? Currently there are no outhouses or toilets for public usage in the area. Will the city be installing a public restroom to support the garden? If no restroom will be provided, will the gardeners be knocking at neighboring doors wanting

use their bathrooms? We are not in favor of having people urinating next to the well house. One would think the gardeners would need tool sheds, restrooms, places to store their materials and clothing.

Who will be handling all the debris for the project? Will the city be installing a dumpster to collect all the trimmings, vegetation, garbage and construction materials? Will the garbage trucks have to back up into the small driveway?

Where will the access to the well house garden be? The current location is the only access point to the property. The fencing has been in place since we moved in and has always been locked and posted with "No Trespassing" signs. Will we now just disregard them, if so, why were they there in the first place?

If the access point remains where it is, we can only imagine the cul-de-sac, in front of our house, being continually blocked. People will want to access the garden and our family will have nowhere to park, not to mention the trash and debris left behind by the gardeners, at the site and in the cul-de-sac.

Will the gardeners be using pesticides at the well house site? Who will monitor the usage? Not sure we want to drink the water after the ground has been saturated with chemicals and fertilizers. Currently there is no one fertilizing, or using pesticides at the site.

Who would the garden site be open to, Fircrest residents or anyone who wants to use it? We don't want gardeners disturbing the quite residential neighborhood we live in. Who will set the work hours and what are they? We can only imagine people showing up at the break of dawn to do a hard days work, only to disturb our once quite neighborhood. Could there be people spending the nights to ensure their crops won't be disturbed or taken?

Who will clean up the site after the harvest is complete. We have seen other garden sites left in a shamble after the harvest! Who wants to clean up after all the fun is over? We don't want to look at the leftover mess, smell the rotting vegetation, and a growing rodent population having a feast.

We are not sure why this is such a great secret, no one from the city has made any attempt to contact us, only an informed neighbor. We live right next door to the proposed site and have no further information. With the small driveway access road, adjacent to our

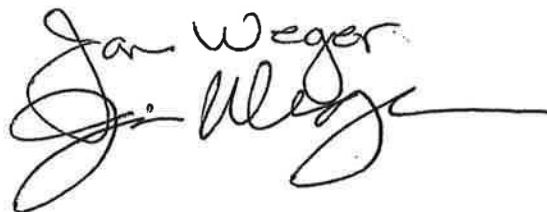
property, don't you think we should be notified? Will the gardeners be parking in that driveway, walking all over our property and plantings? Will our property values decrease or diminish due to the coming and goings of the gardeners? The city publishes a "Town Topic News Letter" and provides mailers for information on water issues, etc., yet nothing as been provided regarding this garden!

We invite anyone from the city, who might think this is a good idea, come a visit the site and look at the current access-egress point off the cal-de-sac. Would you want this next to your house?

Please inform us of any actions/information you have about this project.

Respectfully
Jan and Jim Weger
1208 West Mount Dr
Fircrest, Wa.

(253) 564-0584

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Weger". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

COPY

CITY OF FIRCREST

MAY 16 2016

RECEIVED

May 16, 2016


Hunter T. George
Mayor Pro Tempore
Fircrest City Council

Reference the Pump House at Sunrise & Clareont

I understand that there is some one trying to establish a garden or park at the intersection of Sunrise Lane and the Claremont international speed way. Since this is where I live I must **EXPRESS OPPOSITION** to this proposal. Who ever figured this out must not live too near this area to understand the implications. For example parking restrictions. Where are all these supposed gardenders going to park. The street is narrow enough as it is for the type traffic that uses it and the speed people travel (wow). Lets face it, it would be unsafe for "gardender or parks users" to unload their cars or whatever anywhere near the pump house. Plus the unsightly mess that public gardens create. Look around at any of them and you will see what I mean. Who is going to watch over the pump house to prevent vandalism. Now its fenced that keeps most people out.

Let's keep Fircrest the nice place it is. There is always some yo-yos that have their ideas as long as it don't affect their surroundings. We have lived in Fircrest for over 40 years and can remember the bright idea of a strip mall at Alameda and Emerson when that area was vacant. Also extablishing the swamp on Emerson as a park. That didn't last long and is now just about overgrown. The rejection of the park at 44th and Alameda just because it bordered U.P. They fixed that by making it a housing area. By the way the pump house is across from U.P.

So I am requesting this idea of whatever at the pumphouse on Claremont be **DROPPED**.
Thank you very much for yoour attention.


Frank Albers
1054 SunriseLane
Fircrest

Jerry and Jean Foss
1101 Paradise Parkway
Fircrest, WA 98466
253 565 9094

May 6, 2016

Rick Rosenblatt, City Manager
City of Fircrest Mayor and Council Members

We were quite surprised to hear that the Pump House field on Claremont might be a possible site for the Community Garden. We have several concerns and feel we need to share them with the Council as they prepare to move forward with making a decision.

This field, though in appearance seems like a good place, we want to remind you of its origins. The original donation to the city was for the Pump House and was not designated as a park or some other 'public' meeting space.

Our concerns with the garden itself are on several fronts:

- **Parking:** will the neighbor's home (on the corner of Sunrise and Claremont) side yard become a parking lot for the members of the garden? Claremont already has many vehicles travelling well above the 25MPH. People crossing the street, anxious to get to gardening, hauling tools, etc. and not paying attention could be put at risk.
- **Upkeep:** Is the council aware of the problems we have with rats/mice in the area? I can supply you with pictures of where rats have built their nest in our walls which front to the park, under our deck, in our attic (and, no, we do NOT feed the birds or squirrels). We become aware of another 'dead rat' when the odor starts to permeate wherever they have dropped dead. We pay Lind Pest to come to our home quarterly now to deter this from happening. That doesn't help, though, went the critters that come in from other areas. Last fall, another dead rat was under our deck... stinking up our back yard and the place we consider our retreat.
- **So,** as enthusiasm for the plot dampens and then the slowing of growth and decomposing as winter comes, I see a messy patch, with rats and mice having a field day... even some of the raccoons we have around may enjoy a feast. This is not a family garden in a family yard... there will be many, many plants taken care of by many with different levels of commitment.
- **Noise:** Gardening is fun and a good thing. However, when groups are there, there will be activity. And, not just on a "next door" neighbor level. And who will be allowed to garden there? Since it's supposed to build the Fircrest Community... seems it should just be Fircrest Residents. Is there a plan to oversee that?

We have been out of town for two months and just became aware when we went on Facebook. Hello??? Why would a family who is a resident, who will NOT be participating and yet who will be affected, not be told that this plot was in consideration. What if we did not have a computer??? Are we suppose to walk to the Fircrest Town Hall every week to see what is going on in our immediate neighborhood?

We also noted Fircrest United Methodist Church as a recommended site. That seems, if they are willing, a much better site. Parking, plentiful, they have irrigation there on the site. It's near the new Wainwright, and a partnership with the school would be an awesome venture.

We are available for conversation. We feel this being a significant different use of the well site from it's original intention, sending out notifications prior to any meetings - similar to a variance- would sure have been a move in the direction of full disclosure/good manners/and good neighbors.

We will be out of town next week and cannot attend the council meeting scheduled to share our concerns stated in this note. From our understanding, at this time, no decision has been made, but we still wanted to give our input, in case again, we are out of town if/when there is a special session or a council meeting where a decision will be made.

Thank you all in advance.

Jerry and Jean Foss

PS Was the empty property, now belonging to the city, on the south east corner of Electron and Contra Costa considered?

Item 6

**Discussion, review and direction on
unfreezing the budget allocation for the
staff grant writer position**

February 21, 2017

Memo

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Rick Rosenblatt
Date: February 17, 2017
Re: Grant writer – 2017 Adopted Budget

On November 7, 2016 the Council adopted the 2017 Budget. There was Council consensus to freeze the amount budgeted for the grant writer position until further information could be brought back regarding the plan for the position. The plan is presented below.

There are several parts to our plan. First there will be training and classes. Networking with other grant writers and staff is another important part of the plan. Researching and reading of grant writing instructional materials and book is included in the plan. During these phases a database of City information will be gathered. Also website sources will be researched for possible grants. Concurrently, grants will be applied for and pursued.

Training and classes

Fircrest employee Abbie Maenhout has attended several training classes including those related to eCivis which provides information on grants. Fircrest has a contract with eCivis which allows staff to search four branches throughout the region. Abbie is also enrolled for a March 16th Federal Grants Requirements and Management workshop.

Networking

Abbie has met with a grant writer from Tacoma and contacted other grant writers. She found that many grant writers get the assignment first and then get the training and experience later. She will continue to contact other grant writers.

She would also join the Puget Sound Grant Writers Association (PSGA). This provides interaction with other grant writers throughout Puget Sound region, as well as monthly meetings. This also allows the employee access to PSGA Listserv, which is a forum for contact with other grant writers for questions and answers.

Researching and Reading

There is a wealth of information available in books, the Internet, and from classes. Also, research from networking with staff and other grant writers is being done. Books such as *Grantsmanship for the Genius* by local authors Ken Ristine and Goodwin Deacon will be purchased and studied. There are many other training manuals available.

Salient Points

- Our intent is to build an archive of information creating characteristics of the City of Fircrest. We also intend to locate successful proposals and example proposals to use as resources for future grant proposals.
- Community support and support from other agencies are often necessary for award of the grant. A staff member familiar with the community, the city departments and other agencies can be critical to obtaining support.
- There is great benefit in tying the grant writer position to the Planning/Building administrative assistant position. The majority of grants require mapping and inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. The administrative assistant position currently is trained on the GIS and has provided mapping for Public Works and Parks grants in the past. Planning naturally connects with all the departments each year as they work on the Capital Facilities portion of the Comprehensive Plan. This connection will be a great asset when evaluating the funding options with the planning goals.
- There is great value having an on-staff grant writer, which is much more economically reasonable than hiring an outside grant writer at a much higher hourly rate. The experience stays with Fircrest and can be utilized for future grant work
- This position would be the central point of contact for grant writing.

Conclusion

It is requested that Council “unfreeze” the funding for the grant writer position in the 2017 Adopted Budget. This can be done by consensus.