

GREEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES / DRAFT
6/13/18

LOCATION: AREA 405

ATTENDEES

Andre Minoli, Arman Mizani, Brian Levy, Cory Adcock-Camp, Dave Thack, Deb Jansen, Jeff Leone, LaShauna Jones, MaryAnne Arntzen, Mary Carol Jennings, Michael Harris, Monika Graves, Nancey Kinlin, Soo Kim, Yaritza Velez.

Greenspaces represented: Hunters Lot (Brian, Dave), McAllister Park (Cory, Nancey), Barclay Oliver Garden/BOG (Deb, MaryAnne, Monika, Soo), Wonderground (Michael, Monika)

AGENDA

For this first meeting of neighbors interested in Greenmount West green spaces, no formal agenda was set. The group introduced the following as needs and issues of concern:

- Reclamation of lots currently used as trash dumps into productive garden spaces
- Neighborhood cleanliness & safety
- Youth engagement
- Coordinated management & support of the green spaces
- Gardening & teaching others to garden
- Alternative food access & security.

LOT RECLAMATION / Potential sites:

1718 Guilford: The former site of a community garden that was destroyed when Baltimore City Dept. of Housing stabilized the adjacent building. 1718 lies diagonally across the alley from Hunters Lot aka Paul Povolock Memorial Park.

Neighbors submitted an application for a 2018-2019 Spruce-Up Grant from the Central Baltimore partnership (CBP) to address needs of 4 different green spaces (Hunters Lot, Wonderground, McAllister Park, and the BOG). The 1718 site was included in the description for Hunters Lot as potentially fulfilling the desire of neighboring residents to once again grow fruits and vegetables. The grant application cited the building of raised beds to launch the garden.

Brentwood Avenue: (Adam Kutcher, Michael Harris) Often mistaken for an alley, Brentwood Ave. runs north-south from Oliver St. to North Ave. & east-west from Greenmount to Barclay. There are several small vacant lots along Brentwood—between Lanvale & Pitman & Federal & Oliver that could be dedicated as plots for kids and community members. Youth & adults could be instructed to build raised beds, plant seeds, nurture, harvest, & sell produce. The program could focus on specific “crops” such as tomatoes, basil, & peppers as well as seasonal crops such as pumpkins. This proposed “Seed & Harvest” program would provide an opportunity to teach youth about investing in the future and provide opportunity for adults to grow for their own table.

Data Compilation:

Site Map: Determine legal status of lots, establish which lots can feasibly be gardened and what is needed for implementation, & create a map. Development Committee has information.

PROPOSED EVENTS & PROJECTS

Garden Party: (Mary Carol Jennings) pointed out that there were 3 integrated ideas—kids, trash, & green space—all could be supported & highlighted through the concept of a “garden party.”

Tasting of Greenmount West: (Michael Harris) Suggests a broad concept in which Greenmount West residents would grow and produce some of its own food as well as produce to sell.

Tree Planting: (Brian Levy) explained his experience in Mt. Vernon, where tree planting was a priority. (Arman Mizani of the Tool Library) recommended contacting Alex Smith, Director of Operations for The Baltimore Tree Trust (<http://www.baltimoretreetrust.org>). (Jeff Leone) mentioned previous tree planting initiatives with Blue Water Baltimore.

Tree Wells: (Jeff Leone) Proposes that the community develop designs for tree wells & coordinate better maintenance of tree wells. Start with corners and progress block by block.

Splash Pad: Should the Green Space Committee oversee the Splash Pad?

McAllister Park: Cory Adcock-Camp told the group that she has set up a gmail account for the Park to facilitate scheduling special events in the park. When the park was an Adopt-a-Lot, people would “reserve” the park for events like children’s birthday parties. The park’s email address is McAllisterParkBaltimore@gmail.com.

People can send the park an email with the proposed event details (or tell someone on the GWCA board to pass on to Cory). Cory will add the event to the calendar, make sure the grounds are mowed, and post signs (if requested) that the park is closed to dogs for that time. Cory is intent on ensuring an easy process with basic rules—especially 100% trash pickup (has been an issue in the past). Cory would like this added to the agenda for the next GW General Meeting.

Trash & Litter: (Nancey Kinlin) For the past month & half, Nancey has rallied a troop of 5-6 intrepid Greenmount West youth to clean up trash & litter from neighborhood streets. Attendees made the following suggestions:

- Broader promotion of cleanup efforts.
- (LaShauna Jones) Speak with Baltimore Design School about student-designed trash receptacles (specifically on Barclay) with possible theme-related mural or signs;
- Engage in dialogue with shop owners on Barclay about trash disposal
- (Nancey Kinlin) Invite City representative responsible for trash cans to attend GWCA General Meeting
- (Mary Carol Jennings) FYI: Richard Lee is the GW Trash Service Supervisor

Collaborations: GWCA (Green Space Committee) with Neighborhood Institutions (Montessori, BDS, Openworks, City Arts). Should representatives from these Institutions be invited to attend Green Space meetings?

Station North Tool Library: Arman Mizani, one of the 3 Library managers, informed the group of the Library’s commitment in supporting the community. The Library recently received a grant that allocated funds for mowers and weed whackers to be reserved for the community green spaces. This would insure that these essential and high-demand tools would be available for the green space stewards. The Library will maintain a list of authorized stewards.

Arman also spoke about the Library’s willingness to conduct workshops in building raised beds. He believes that free lumber could be obtained from one of the Library sources such as the Loading Dock.

Benefits District: (Jeff Leone) Explained that a Greenmount West benefits district has been discussed in the past, but to date, there has been reluctance to pay for a district by raising taxes with a surcharge on property taxes. However, with the influx of new residents and growth of the community tax base this becomes more feasible.

(Brian Levy) described the benefits district of Mt. Vernon in which the trash, maintenance of green space, and security were the coordinated responsibility of the Mt. Vernon Benefits District.

(Nancey Kinlin) wondered whether a benefits district would produce jobs for local residents. (Brian Levy) supports the idea, saying that local hires could be prioritized.

CURRENT NEEDS OF GREEN SPACE CARETAKERS

Hunter's Lot (Paul Povolock Memorial Park): (Dave Thack, Brian Levy)

The 2018-2019 Spruce-Up Grant that was recently awarded prioritizes the renovation of the 3 entrances to Hunter's Lot. The landscape contractor (Eric Brooks) will begin the renovations in mid-August. He inquired about a safe place to store the materials. Brian Levy offered his back yard that has a tall fence. A lock would need to be procured.

The submitted grant application included the cutting of 5 (junk) trees to open up the lawn area for family activities and permit better growth of the oaks and other desirable trees. The approved grant disallowed the tree cutting although the reviewers acknowledged that the logic was well grounded. Eric Brooks the contractor will cut for free one tree that is directly in front of the accessible entrance on the east side.

The Wonderground: (Michael Harris)

The Spruce-Up grant also included metal signage for the Wonderground (Barclay & Lanvale corner). Lawrence Moore, a neighborhood designer-fabricator will create the sign by utilizing the facilities at Open Works and the Station North Tool Library. Funds for soil & building materials for raised beds were also allocated. **Recommendation for soil donations: Holland's Organic**

(Michael Harris) mentioned that water access is needed and was told that water access is at the entrance of the east-west alley along the south side of the park. The City will need to be contacted & a fee paid for renewing access.

Near future needs:

- People with gardening/farming expertise to teach workshops for youth (& adults)
- Gloves & tools for youth

Related Idea: Mobile composter (to collect & provide between the BOG & Wonderground)

ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Dave Thack offered to create a Google Doc and investigate mapping the GW green spaces; he will also follow-up with **Cory Adcock-Camp** about contacting Baltimore Green Space about outreach & visibility.

Jeff Leone recommends that **Nancey Kinlin** speak with Lena Leone concerning past trash clean-up efforts & agreements

Nancey Kinlin will reach out to City trash representatives—**Mary Carol Jennings** will provide her with contact information for Richard Lee, the GW trash service supervisor.

LaShauna Jones: developing a volunteer list for her Civic Works service.

General Committee: Reach out to the Montessori & BDS schools and other neighborhood institutions about potential collaborations.

FROM MAY 2018 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Adopt-a-Lot Applications: Renewals needed for Hunter's Lot, Wonderground, etc. DHCD suggested that GWCA bundle together multiple Adopt-a-Lot applications.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 11 @7:30, location TBD

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