****Union City Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting

September 24, 2018

Meeting Summary

Present: Giavani Smith, Jakarri Martin, Karen Allison, Fred Conrad, Allison Duncan

Recap of several key points from August Meeting

* Still want to “go big” with the garden, but receptive to having appropriately scaled elements at other sites
* Identify partnerships to help manage the gardening until a critical mass of volunteers can be achieved to support the garden
* Consider accessibility issues with pathways
	+ Ease of maintaining concrete/hardscape pathways rather than having mulch pathways
	+ Concrete/ hardscape better for accessibility
	+ Mulch pathways require greater upkeep
* Parking is an important consideration for access
	+ People will need to bring plants, tools, mulch etc to the garden so will need accessible parking areas

Evaluation of potential sites

Ronald Bridges Park

* Could be a good location
* Concerns about nighttime vandalism
* Would need a fence to help manage vandalism
	+ Would want a high-quality, attractive fence
* There is an area near the creek that could be a possibility
	+ Heavily wooded – may need to clear some trees there – the amount of sunlight at the site could be an issue
	+ Need to be mindful of environmental regulations near the creek – would have to stay a certain distance back from the creek bed

Fire Station 1, 2 and/ or 3

* Public works does the maintenance at the fire stations
* Fire Station #3 is the only one that would have enough land for a garden
* Each fire station may have land for an orchard

Former Union City Elementary School

* Converting the former Union City Elementary School into a community center
* Cement walkways could be achieved by building on an existing parking lot
* Ballfields will be repurposed – could find space in proximity to the ball fields and new playground site
* There is an area adjacent to new bathroom facilities that could be a candidate
* A community garden next to a playground is an ideal location – Mableton is an example of a community garden next to a playground
* ¼ acre is plenty of space – only need a minimum of about 60’ x 100’ to establish a garden
* The entire site will have a fence that has limited access through a gate – the gates to the park can be closed for security (Ronald Bridges does not currently have a perimeter fence)
* Will have site lighting at night for security
* Possible that Kaboom could help fund the garden near the playground – Union City is already speaking with them about funding the playground
* Parks and Rec can control the dimensions of the outfield of the ball fields if that helps create space for the garden beds

Former Public Services site – Lower Dixie Lake Road

* Located at a dead end street
* Has buildings that are not being utilized – could provide storage space; shipping crates that are not being used that could be cleared out
* Used to be a drying bed for sewer, but has been filled in
* Creek/ lake spillway
* Already has a fence around the property with a gate
* Should have water on the site

Next Steps

* Review existing plans for references to community gardens or urban agriculture
* Identify opportunities at multiple sites
	+ Orchards at fire stations
	+ Edible landscape and/ or raised planter beds at Ronald Bridges, particularly when Etris Center becomes a dedicated Senior Center
* Identify sites for a potential field trip in November
* Mortenson Wood Works – local master gardener interested in donated supplies for garden beds; potential champion of the garden