

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Robert Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PRESENT were members Donna Almquist, Valerie Elliott, Susan Gregersen, Donna Hoffmeister, Damien Ossi, Robert Snyder, Joseph Murray and Yoni Siegel.

ALSO PRESENT were City Council liaison Rodney Roberts and Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved by a vote of 7-0.

REVIEW OF DRAFT SUSTAINABLE LAND CARE POLICY (2011): The Board discussed the draft policy, touching on several different points including:

- Policy should be examined in the context of how it will help the ecosystem of the forest preserve as well as those citizens who use the forest preserve.
- Suggestion that the policy separated address the forest preserve, as well as the community gardens,
- Clarification sought related to use of the terms “cosmetic use” and “organic gardens”
- Should the Draft Sustainable Land Care Policy apply to the community gardens?
- Questioned whether non-native plants could/should be permitted depending on type of plant, location, etc...

There was extensive discussion on how this policy should apply to the community gardens.

Further discussion was deferred until the September, 2013 FPAB meeting.

REVIEW OF INSPECTION OF COMMUNITY GARDENS ON JULY 11, 2013: Chair Snyder summarized the inspection of the community gardens which included City staff members Craze and Public Works Director Ken Hall, as well as members of the garden club. Mr. Murray was also present for part of the inspection and corresponding discussion. Mr. Snyder pointed out that there are areas in the garden where trees have grown in the plots and along the fence line. There are also areas where there are dead branches hanging over the fence and gardens, and other locations where there are dead or dying trees which are in danger of falling into the gardens. Maintenance for the gardens is going to be divided into separate topics/areas for ease of discussion. Suggested areas for discussion and consideration are:

1. Immediate maintenance
2. Long-term maintenance
3. a. Restoration or treatment of areas previously cleared of wisteria
b. Restoration or treatment of other areas erroneously cleared in Nov. 2012
4. Opportunities to create new community gardens in other parts of the city

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board was scheduled for September 26, 2013 at 7 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Hoffmeister and seconded by Ms. Almquist, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Celia W. Craze

These minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0.