



Sausalito Community Garden: Spring 2017

Meeting #1 @ Dunphy Park, Sausalito

Monday, 03.13.2017

Attendees

Jules H: Group leader, Involved with San Geronimo CG

Olivia M*: Group leader, farming experience, kids outdoor/garden educator

Diane: Attends/watches town council meetings

Lori S: Farming family, gardener, mayor connection

Sohreh N: Pro-community! Organic eater, hi-five pro

Josh K: Livestock enthusiast, slug squisher, community-seeker

* : This meeting notes' "Scribe"

Agenda

Last Meeting Follow-up

1. This was the first meeting! Yay!

New Business

2. Introduce ourselves! Share our excitement and ideas!
3. Visit the proposed plot
4. Write down action items to complete by next meeting
5. Jot down next meeting agenda items

Meeting Notes

- There seems to be a lot of excitement for gardening in Sausalito! Many people responded with interest to Jules' "**Nextdoor**" post.
- **We discussed locations:**
 - We don't have a list of available public property sites right now, but we've all had our eyes on the green-grassy/city-storage parcels adjacent to Dunphy.

- We like the idea of someplace closer to the “action”, the commerce center of downtown Sausalito where the locals dwell and do business (the library, hardware store, places where locals drink and dine), rather than the “French School” location at MLK field. More foot traffic in central Sausalito too. The South end where the tourists are would be cool, but may feel less “ours”.
- We need to be near a water hook up or instal our own and the plot must be sunny. Protection from wind would be good too.
- We think we’ll be confined to raised beds only-- thats ok!
- **We mentioned a lot of possible “wants” for the garden (I’ll try to list them all):**
 - Fruit trees (but can we plant them in the ground?)
 - Composting: We could collect peoples’ kitchen scraps, so long as they are picked through first.
 - We might need regular volunteers to keep the garden up and running
 - Chickens would be cool! (But how would we do this?)
 - Lots of plots so it’s more inclusive
 - Fences and locks are exclusive (but we might need one to keep pests out, and for liability reasons)
 - PYO (pick your own) events would be SO cool (but that would mean someone grows produce for EVERYONE, not just for themselves... So what “kind” of Community Supported Agriculture are we aiming for?)
 - Could we rent some goats to mow our weeds?!
 - Sausalito known as a “bedroom community”-- so it could use more areas for socializing and building tighter community.
- **Olivia spoke (to the best of her knowledge) about the efforts made, successes, and roadblocks incurred by the “Friends of The Sausalito Community Gardens” (hereby FSCG) effort 10 years ago. We know that:**
 - The dedicated, well organized group headed by Sausalito resident Kathryn Mullins, worked their buns off for four years to get a garden approved in Sausalito back in 2008-2012!
 - They decided on a spot for the garden (one corner of MLK field) and an architect friend drafted up (pro-bono) a plan for the garden (which was ADA approved, included all of the requirements imposed by the city, etc, etc...)
 - They ran into some backlash from random people who didn’t want the garden for various reasons, but ultimately they overcame all of the little hurdles and got stuck in a committee (“Outreach, IT, MLK, and Transportation” aka OMIT) that wouldn’t move forward with the

garden. OMIT wasn't against the concept of a garden *we don't think*, but they put FSCG on hold for so long that their energy behind the garden effort eventually fizzled out and the garden never happened :(.

Where we choose to put this new garden will be a VERY important decision. We can't convince the city we know what we're doing without plans, but once we draw up plans we sort of commit ourselves to a site.... A chicken vs. egg scenario. We have a lot to learn from those who have tried before us.

- FSCG had a Facebook group, a logo, they were a registered non-profit, they fundraised, and won the Caledonia Street Faire float competition!
- They learned that all gardening must be done in raised beds because of unknown contaminants that could possibly reside in city soils.
- **We walked over to the Dunphy parcel and scoped it out.** The green-grassy area closest to the water is gorgeous! With views of the bay, the city, Mount Tam, and Sausalito as a backdrop. We aren't sure who owns this grassy patch. We think that the fenced property west of the grassy patch is partially owned by the City of Sausalito and used for materials storage for construction projects, and partially privately owned.

Action Items

1. Olivia: Will **get in contact with Kathryn** (Kat) Mullins and find a time for her to come and speak with us about what her Non-profit "Friends of Sausalito Community Gardens" has already done, what they learned, and where we should pick up and/or restart.
2. Olivia: Will also do some **research other public potential gardening areas in the town.**
3. Jules: Will speak with Parks and Rec to figure out "**what's the deal**" with the **empty parcel** next to Dunphy Park?
4. Olivia and Jules: **Decide when/where to hold the next meeting.**
5. Sohreh: Will _____ (oops I forget! Was it about Saus School Gardens?)
6. Diane: Will talk to her partner who might **get us in with The Mayor.**
7. Everyone: **Reach out to your peoples**, (via Facebook, email, women's club, parents at local schools...) tell them we're LIVE again and invite them to the next meeting!!

Next Meeting Agenda Items

- We hope for a larger turnout at Meeting #2. We should take detailed notes so we can research questions we come up with and start answering them and putting together resource lists!
- I think we should start out naturally, shmoozing, with **introductions** or some sort of "turn to your neighbor and share your favorite plant to grow or thing

- to do in Sausalito” meet-and-greet so that we start off right away building a gardening community.
- Once people are comfortable and have found their voices, we can launch into a discussion: We can **review what we touched on last meeting** and launch into new business.
 - Maybe we start off getting the creative juices flowing with a **“DREAM GARDEN” brainstorming session**. Ask people to “Please state your name” so if an idea is used, they can be consulted and given credit!
 - At the next meeting we will have **Kat as our star guest speaker** to fill us in on everything her group did last time around.
 - We should take good notes on what Kat has to say.
 - Just a random Scribe thought: It might be fun to try to have a “guest speaker” at every meeting. It would encourage people to show up and they could help us make more informed decisions.
 - Action item for anyone: Do you know any master gardeners? I have a friend who worked at a community garden in Marin City. **Do you know any leaders of other community gardens in the area?** Let us know!
 - We should **get everyone’s names, emails, gardening/government/event planning specialties, etc so we can stay connected**
 - We should get a sense of who wants to step-up to a leadership role vs. who is simply stoked to have a plot v. supporters, etc. Don’t discourage anyone! Everyone is needed and welcome, but **we need to know who has time to come to meetings as regularly as possible and follow through on action items (or follow through on action items remotely.)**
 - We should make a longer list of action items to complete by meeting #3 before adjourning meeting #2.

PHEW!! :D yay gardening!