

Friends of Garfield Square Park – Meeting Notes

Date: Saturday, February 12, 2011 from 11am - Noon
Location: Garfield Clubhouse, Treat Street
Attending: Pamela del Rio, Julie Lindsey, Anthony Lindsey, Kenneth Matthews, Lisa Scandrette, Mark Scandrette, Dani Scoville, Lauren Crandall
Victoria Bell (NPC), Taj (RPD)

Next Steps are listed at the end of these minutes.

- I. Introductions
- II. Clubhouse Update
 - a. The Garfield Square Clubhouse is now open Monday – Friday in the afternoons to allow for recreation time for youth (teens, primarily).
- III. Discussion: The group was asked what their time commitment (per month), interests and talents were to help facilitate setting goals for the Friends of Garfield Square Park.
 - a. Pamela: 6 hours, marketing and developing connections with the community, interested in activating the park to remove encampments.
 - b. Julie: 2-3 hours, interested in in-person networking and gardening/landscaping projects
 - c. Lisa: 2-3 hours, interested in making community connections, attend events, work with kids and youth, provide food for meetings and events
 - d. Anthony: Couple days/month, interes in group clean-ups and events
 - e. Dani: 3 hours, Promotion, clean-up/work days
 - f. Lauren: 3 hours, work days and connectiong to Parque Ninos Unidos
 - g. Kenneth: 3-6 hours
 - h. Mark: 4-8 hours, interested in networking, organizing, sound system, teaching/faciliating classes (personal finance, spoken word, etc), organize community projects, student volunteers
- IV. Ideas
 - a. Developing a “street team” or education team
 - i. Have a “uniform” like vests or some other identification
 - ii. Walk the park at various intervals at least 1x per week to talk to people in the park
 - iii. Group should have bi-lingual information (flyers in english and spanish?) to share with park users
 - iv. Use the Barrio Libre campaign (that the Scandrette’s worked on) as the basis for the information that the group educates on.
 - v. Encourage park users to use the Club House Restroom during open hours.
 - b. Establiashing a monthly activity for the Friends of Garfield Square to engage the neighborhood

- i. Monthly clean-up with a RPD gardener (Unofficial neighborhood clean-ups can be encouraged by volunteers throughout the week)
 - ii. Special Events
 - 1. Sidewalk Chalk Art
 - 2. Movie Night
 - 3. Salsa Night
 - 4. Block Party
 - 5. SPCA vaccination Drive
 - 6. Halloween party
 - 7. Career Talk/Fair
 - iii. Leveraging other events throughout the year
 - 1. Open House at the Clubhouse (meet the staff night)
 - 2. Street Food Festival (La Cocina)
 - 3. Carnival
 - 4. Halloween and Dia de los Muertos
 - c. Develop plans for creative landscaping
 - i. Around the trees (to curb urinating)
 - ii. In the encampment areas (to curb sleeping)
- V. Mural project on the clubhouse
 - a. Work on a larger community project – “paint by numbers” mural?
 - b. Connect with Precita Eyes on what walls could work for a mural and rules/regulations [Pam]
 - c. Connect with Public Art Commission and Rec and Park on how to initiate discussions on this [Vickie]
- VI. Goal of the group:
 - a. Establish monthly clean-up days
 - b. Get to know your neighbors
 - c. Activate Garfield Square Park
 - i. Why? To remove encampments, drinking, etc. and encouraging those doing these things to move on from Garfield Square Park.
 - d. Include a broad array of ages and backgrounds – we want broad community involvement and youth engagement.
- VII. Next Steps:
 - a. Yahoo/Google Group for Friends of Garfield Square Park
 - i. Set-up google group [Lisa]
 - ii. Send email to all interested Garfield Square contacts in NPC’s database to connect to Friends of Garfield group [Vickie]
 - b. Brainstorm in small groups / Committees regarding next steps in activating the parks. Leasers can report back at the next meeting. The committees and identified leaders are:
 - i. Park Advocacy [Mark]
 - ii. Park Beautification [Anthony/Lauren] – Park clean-up, etc.
 - 1. Other potential members based on interest:
 - a. Julie
 - iii. Special Events [Pam]