

Healthy Franklin County Nutrition Task Force
Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce
Garden Workshop

Minutes – February 8, 2017

In attendance: Kari Coleman (Laurel Life/Manito), Barb Houpt (YMCA), Noel Purdy (Chambersburg Chamber), Nickie Fickel (Summit Health), Lori Young (Franklin County), Josh Mosetley (Network Ministries), Kathi Jones, Sarah Bay.

Community Garden Map/Inventory: Elizabeth updated the database and map. The database has been sent to the committee for more input/review.

Community Garden Interest Survey: 320 individuals responded to the survey. The committee walked through each question and discussed the results. The results were very positive and there is overwhelming support for community gardens. 89% of respondents are interested in growing vegetables, 63% herbs and 38% flowers. The top reasons for participating in a community garden are access to fresh vegetables 66%, community involvement 52%, learning more about gardening 40%, saving money 38%, socializing/recreation 42%. 53% of respondents would spend 1-2 hours per week in a shared garden; 20% would spend 3-4 hours per week and 5% would spend 5 or more hours a week. 52% of respondents would be interested in volunteering at a community garden. 57% of respondents would like to see community garden downtown, 55% would like to see them in parks and trails and 44% would like to see them in their neighborhoods. 78% of respondents live in the Chambersburg Area School District footprint. 33% of respondent would be willing to travel 3 + miles, 32% would be willing to travel 1-3 miles, 17% are willing to travel 1 mile. 36% would be willing to pay a small fee for a garden plot. 15% of respondents were age 25-32; 32% of respondents were age 33-35; 24% of respondents were age 46-55; 16% of respondents are 56-65. The full results will be distributed to the committee to peruse.

The committee discussed short term strategies to connect existing groups who manage community gardens with potential volunteers and resources, and gardening enthusiasts with resources as well. Using contact information from the survey, an email or newsletter can be sent to connect potential volunteers to Network Ministries, St. Paul's and Manito. The group also discussed how it could connect stakeholders together to share resources, such as seeds, materials and training information. A facebook page or group could be created; it was suggested that the Franklin County Master Gardeners provides some level of information already. What would our communication goals be? An overall strategy needs to be discussed.

Next Steps:

- Noel's interns would create contact list from survey; we may need to do follow up phone calls to obtain email addresses from those who gave only their phone numbers
- Noel's interns would map the street addresses from the survey to help determine possible locations of any new gardens; see draft map.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 23 at 2pm at Summit Health.