

Healthy Franklin County - Community Garden Work Group  
October 11, 2017 - Minutes

Present: Barb Houpt, Kari Coleman, Josh Mosely, Noel Purdy

The group approved the August minutes and 2017-2018 work plan.

Kari reported that Ben Chambers Elementary (Haidi Hong), Fayetteville Elementary (Erin Yardley), and Falling Springs Elementary (Julie Patterson) are working on community gardens. Chris Mayer emailed a note before the meeting to share that she is working with the youth group at St. John's Methodist church to start a garden next season. We will continue to provide information and resources as needed. Noel shared that she hopes to work with Stevens Elementary as she and her husband are getting involved with starting the PTA there. She said the principal indicated a willingness to do a community garden. Noel sent an email to Chris Carroll at CASD to inquire about community access to school property over the summer time so community gardens could continue with neighborhood residents.

Noel shared that Summit Health will be bringing on an intern who will help with the needs assessment for FCHA in Waynesboro community garden project.

Josh shared the project plan for the Network Ministries community garden expansion. The group discussed various options for clearing and surface preparation, as well as layout design options. The group also discussed resources for the project, including contacting Lowes, to learn more about Lowes Heros, grants and donations supplies; Noel will contact Lowes. The group also discussed opportunities for more volunteer involvement, including the FCCTC students from the landscaping/horticulture and/or construction programs. Noel will reach out to Dave Perry at FCCTC and possible Todd Swan. Josh noted that we needed to be mindful to include the residents who are interested in the community garden project to assist with the preparation phase, to build trust and buy-in. Upon further discussion, Josh is considering phasing the project out a bit rather than try to do surface prep and bed construction all in the fall. Josh has access to a skid bucket to help with surface prep. Jay suggested Harry Rotz could donate compost.

The group also discussed researching the summer food program to tie-in other projects.

Noel's follow with Lowes:

I spoke to Pamela Hertzok, the Store Manager. She said that the Lowe's Heros program could be a good fit however they typically want to place 150-200 employees with one service project over a two day period. I explained that the scale may not fit right now for our needs; she encouraged us to go ahead and submit a project idea because they may consider matching volunteers in a different way than previously done. She also encouraged us to submit the project via Lowes Heros so she can educate her staff on service opportunities that they can do as individuals – as Lowes allows 8 hours per employee for community service projects. Lowes Heros is done in March. She also encouraged us [to apply for a grant – if we're looking for funding to buy supplies](#). They are reviewed quarterly. This could be good for the Network Project and/or we could bundle a request with the other groups if they needs supplies too. The supplies need to be purchased through Lowes (is the impression I got). She also said we could submit a donation request for supplies. She was very receptive to working with the community. She said she would do whatever she could to help. Her email is [pamela.j.hartzok@store.lowes.com](mailto:pamela.j.hartzok@store.lowes.com)

Noel's follow up with Dave Perry/FCCTC:

He's interested in learning more. Noel will connect Dave and Josh. [dperry@franklinctc.com](mailto:dperry@franklinctc.com)