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MEETING NOTES

Project	Guadalupe Gardens Design Guidelines	Location	GRPG Visitor & Education Center
Date	October 25, 2007		
Subject	Community Meeting # 1	Attachments	1. Meeting agenda
Attendees	Friends of GRPG Representatives for City of San Jose Community Members RHAA	Notes by	Sarah Kassler sarah@rhaa.com
		Comments/ corrections by	11/20/2007

Action: Friends of GRPG	Item: 1	Discussion: Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Guadalupe Gardens Master Plan • Design Guidelines Project Objectives • Purpose & Format of Meeting • Introduction of Consultant, Friends, City Attendees
RHAA	2	Presentation RHAA's presentation focused on analysis of the Master Plan, priority setting for design guidelines and elements of an implementation strategy. The presentation included a review of existing site conditions and constraints, program opportunity areas, garden connectivity and unifying elements. Three potential locations for the proposed Dog Park were offered for discussion and feedback.
Discussion	3	The following is a record of the discussion on the potential program and connective elements for the Guadalupe Gardens design guidelines and implementation strategy.
	4	Main Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term garden should be used to describe the nature of the space rather than park. • Activation of the north end of gardens requires priority, attention and focus. • The meadowlands north of Taylor should remain informal. • Circuit trails are a good strategy for activating area north of Taylor Street. • Landforms planted with native vegetation are a good strategy for enclosure and experience but it is also important to maintain the openness of the meadow area. • Adding more trees was a good strategy for defining the spine of the gardens. New trees will replace existing Ailanthus altissima "Tree of Heaven". • The guidelines should address removing more of the urban residue, like streets and utilities. • Land sculpture and structures could be diversified to potentially become a place for local artists and children to collaborate – even temporarily and spontaneously. • It was clarified that all prioritization strategies will be decided by a combination of community interest, city definition and Friends of GGRP committees. • It was clarified that the land is owned by the city and the airport through federal

grant money.

5 **Circuit**

- Circuit trails are a good strategy for activating areas north of Taylor Street.
- Circuit trails will effectively develop uses by creating places for people to walk in and enjoy the garden landscape.
- Clarification was sought on whether the circuit would be lit for safety.
- Clarification was sought on what material the circuit trail would be made of - options like asphalt and decomposed granite were briefly discussed. RHAA clarified that path material needs to comply with ADA standards.
- Interpretative signage should be implemented as an important component to help create purpose for the circuit trail.
- Circuit trail should include direct connections to the Guadalupe River Park and the proposed Dog Park.

6 **Dog Park - three possible locations were discussed for consideration, evaluation and recommendation. It was generally agreed that the location north of Coleman Park was preferable**

- The general desire for a Dog Park was repeatedly stated.
- Location 15B north of Columbus Park near Taylor Street was generally preferred:
 - Incorporates the Dog Park into garden.
 - Farther away from the noise of the airport.
 - Near bathrooms and trails since it is close to Columbus Park.
 - Provides a safe place to walk dogs, especially in the evenings.
 - Proximity to the nearby riparian corridor.
- Location 15A near Coleman Avenue was generally not preferred:
 - Too detached from the rest of garden.
 - Does not account for city's long term plans for Coleman Avenue.
- Location 15B near West Hedding Street was generally not preferred:
 - Too detached from the rest of garden.
 - It is closer to airport and too noisy.
- Clarification was sought on whether the entire garden would be accessible for dogs and their owners.
- The need to promote responsible dog ownership and stewardship of the proposed dog park was discussed. It was clarified that dogs be on leash in the garden and only off leash in the Dog Park.
- When the design for the proposed Dog Park was discussed, it was stated that the city has designated 2 acres in size.
- The City's representative stated that although the Dog Park has been proposed, there is currently no funding for it and that the design guidelines would designate its placement as part of an amendment to the Guadalupe Gardens Master Plan.

7 **Sustainability**

- Establishing sustainable or "green" best management practices in the gardens is favorable.
- The gardens have the opportunity to employ sustainable practices and serve as a role model for similar projects.
- The guidelines should specify the use of drought tolerant, native plants as an easy and effective measure.
- The guidelines should specify a lack of chemical fertilizers, with the possible exception of the Rose Garden.
- It was suggested that attracting young people to activate gardens will add another level of sustainability or longevity to the gardens.

- 8 **Removal of invasive species to potentially allow for more trees**
- Removing invasive species and adding more trees was a good strategy.
 - *Ailanthus altissima* "Tree of Heaven" should be replaced by more suitable species.
- 9 **Agricultural Components**
- The Master Plan includes leased agricultural lands and the design guidelines should consider this as a component to prioritize.
 - A non-profit agricultural program would be valuable tool in teaching people, especially children, about the environment and nature.
- 110 **Places for Children**
- It was repeatedly stated the importance of providing unstructured environments where urban kids may experience nature.
 - Children need places for unstructured play in natural areas.
 - The meadowland north of Taylor be left open, wild and somewhat untended.
 - It was suggested that the guidelines should meet and consult local students to help create spaces.
 - Incorporating teenagers into the design of the areas north of Taylor would be an effective way to activate the space with users. Teenagers may have particular interests to consider - like mountain biking, trails and forts.
 - A skateboard park was suggested between buildings north of West Hedding.
 - The gardens have an opportunity to provide entire families with inter-generational activities in wild spaces.
 - As component to the gardens' educational atmosphere, it was suggested that signage should be child friendly and not just for adults.
- 11 **Transitions**
- The guidelines should address how pedestrians navigate across the gardens at West Taylor Street.
- 12 **Next Steps**
- Community Meeting #2
 - Posting of information pertaining to the meeting, presentation and discussion on the GGRP web site.