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MEETING NOTES

Project	Guadalupe Gardens Design Guidelines	Location	GRPG Visitor & Education Center
Date	February 13, 2008		
Subject	Community Meeting #2	Attachments	I. 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	

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	Implementation and Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Opportunities, Constraints & Site Analysis • Review of Community Feedback from Meeting #1 • Implementation Strategies • Design Guidelines
Discussion	3	Community Comments & Discussion The following is a record of the discussion on the proposed design guidelines and implementation strategy for the Guadalupe Gardens.
	4	General Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is general interest in creating spaces and establishing uses that will attract users to the site. • It was suggested that program elements should be considered to attract funding. • Programmatic decisions should be made sooner rather than later. • It was suggested that the drought tolerant garden should be expanded along the north side of Taylor Street. • Urban agriculture and varietal gardens bring in families and schools. • Clarification as to whether future areas for varietal gardens would replace turf was requested. Long term plan would diminish open turf.
	5	Urban Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that a place for urban farming be set aside within the project. An urban farm would fit well with the rural theme. • Working urban farm projects offer the potential for non-profit and community groups to create educational opportunities to experience larger scale farming. • Some members requested an urban farm that would especially allow children to connect with nature.

- It was suggested that the northern portion of the site could be an urban farm and that proposed trails could complement that use.
 - There was a comment that small urban farm sites can be effective: 1 acre has the capacity to serve 1 school; 10 acres has the capacity to sell produce to support a non-profit.
- 6 **Sustainability**
- General enthusiasm was expressed for ecological and sustainable concepts.
 - Some members saw the sustainability discussion as a possible way to get youth and adolescents involved and to set an example for younger generations.
 - Creation of a space to propagate and sell plants (both native and non native) was suggested.
 - It was suggested that HDE pipes be used for irrigation rather than PVC piping.
- 7 **Central Promenade**
- General support for the Spring Street promenade was expressed.
 - The tree choice was discussed and the possibility of Jacaranda trees was questioned. Suggested alternatives include Horsechestnuts and Sycamores.
 - It was clarified that the existing trees will be incorporated into the promenade.
- 8 **Circuit Trails**
- Clarification regarding the trail surface was requested. It was clarified that the surfacing will be soft, but ADA compliant (i.e. decomposed granite).
 - It was suggested that the trail surface material should be sustainable and comfortable for jogging.
 - There was a suggestion of connecting the bike trail to MarketCenter or downtown (and/or other points of interest).
 - Information was sought regarding plans for continuing the trail under Coleman Bridge. The Army Corps will be completing the under crossing under the Coleman Avenue Bridge, which will connect the trail on the west side of the river.
- 9 **Dog Park**
- General support for a dog park was repeatedly stated.
 - It was generally agreed upon that a dog park is a great way to attract people and that this use should be considered a priority.
 - Community members asked how they could get involved and requested a description of the decision process. It was clarified that input from community is taken to city committees for consideration and then moves forward into a final report.
 - A four-acre Dog Park was proposed to serve the region rather than just the neighborhood. Larger dog parks can require less upkeep and allow for repair.
 - A question was raised regarding a dog park and burrowing owls. Clarification was sought regarding the City's plans for creating habitat areas. It was clarified that the Master Plan still shows this potential and this discussion does not preclude these plans north of Hedding.
- 10 **Places for Young People**
- Support for natural and unspoiled areas for children was repeatedly expressed. It was clarified that the northern portion of the site will be left in a rugged state, but made accessible with trails.
 - It was expressed that the educational and recreational needs of children should be a priority.
 - Interest in agricultural demonstration for children was expressed.
- 11 **Edge Treatment**
- Concern was expressed about too much enclosure at the edges of the park. It was clarified that areas will be left open to views of the grasslands and trees.
 - Support for low berms was expressed. It was clarified that berms will be used thoughtfully to enhance rather than conceal the meadowlands.
 - It was suggested that the intersection crossing at Taylor Street, in addition to the

proposed ground pattern, should also have embedded lighting.

- Suggestions were made for entrances to interact with bus stops.
- There is general support for a rustic fence.

12 **Parking**

- Parking is currently available on surface streets, including Spring Street, around Columbus Park. Clarification was sought regarding other planned parking.
- Clarification was requested regarding the number of parking spaces to be provided.

13 **Project Funding & Timing**

- Funding opportunities will have to be found by the City and the Friends after the update to the plan had been approved. There are no identified sources of funds for implementation at this time.
- Great cities = great parks. How do we get this next year? How do you move this to reality in terms of private funding? It was suggested that private partnerships should be planned as a strategy to raise funds.
- Some members offered to help raise funds.

Next Steps

- Work Program Schedule
- Master Plan Amendment & Approval

Friends of
GRPG