

Growing the Greenway Action Committee
March 22, 2016

Growing the Greenway Developments—FLTA update, fruit trees (15 minutes)

- FLTA update- we have growers! 22 community members and 24 seniors (total 46) interested in having a plot. 4 of these growers are in attendance.
- Fruit Trees
 - Friends of Lafitte Greenway was approached by arts organizations Pelican Bomb and A Studio in the Woods, who are working with a group of artists called Fallen Fruit, to bring their project, Endless Orchard, to New Orleans. They think the Greenway would be a good location for the project—a network of fruit trees on public space.
 - Fruit Trees were brought up in the Local Foods Local Places workshops, as well as in other forums. Friends of Lafitte Greenway met with Ama from ASITW and Cameron from PB.
 - Concerns with having fruit trees:
 - Does this group know what they're doing?
 - Design—how would the community be involved? We would want strong community involvement & leadership.
 - How long is the relationship, and who manages the trees when they leave?
 - What local food groups should be involved? (NOLA Tree Project, etc.)
 - Who would collect the unharvested fruits? Care for the trees?
 - Do trees and gardens go well together? (answer: yes, if well planned!)
 - Outcome:
 - Friends of Lafitte Greenway will continue having preliminary discussions with ASITW and PB, who still need funding to support this project, and are currently pursuing funding for a site in the lower 9th ward as their first priority.
 - Fallen Fruit will be invited to pitch their project and answer these concerns at a future meeting.

Sojourner Truth Garden Beds—how can we support? –

- Not discussed.
- The FLTA will reach out if we can help with the 6 existing beds in the front of the center. Their current priority is filling them with more soil and planting them for spring.

Gardener Responsibilities

- FLTA will draft a growers' agreement, to be reviewed and approved by the committee.
- Ideas for the agreement:
 - Want to have a low commitment area—includes the fence-line beds outside the fence, and some kind of demonstration garden where people can learn and get their hands in the soil, and take vegetables home, but not commit to a bed.
 - What are the rules for that space? How will it be programmed? Who will tend to it?
 - Illness—what happens if someone gets sick or has another circumstance and can't tend to their bed?
 - At ReFresh, the rule is to communicate that to the coordinator and/or another grower, and folks help out.
 - Flag system can be used to communicate this.
 - What happens to extra produce? Can we share? (Rodney)
 - Harvest Table—ESY places extra produce out on a Harvest Table—free for the taking.
 - Could be used for cooking demonstrations programming
 - Design—How will people tell their plot from someone else's?

- Are we interested in renting out the space for special events?
 - Concerns;
 - What does a special event mean, and how do you distinguish it from a community event (which should be free)? – ask ReFresh how they run the Community Room, similar concept
 - Who would handle the income, and how would it be used?
 - What happens if someone's bed is damaged or harvested? What amount of money replaces someone's hard work & time?
 - Design could answer this concerns-- have "zones" where community beds are safe from the events.
 - The money could be a big help for maintaining the garden. Paradigm may have insights—have regular dinner/concerts at their farm. (Susannah)

Expectations of Partners

- Preliminary discussion will take place in smaller meeting between FLTA and Friends of Lafitte Greenway. Results of that discussion will be brought to the committee for input and discussion.
- To be included on agenda for May.

Community Input for Proposal design

- **Next step is to dig into the design for the garden proposal using a community-input process.**
- Meeting will be held from 3pm-7pm (To accommodate schedules of folks who prefer daytime and evening meetings. It's ok to come for just part of it.)
- We'll need a preliminary list of interested growers by this time, and it would help to have a growers' agreement drafted.
- Next meeting will be the design input session for our proposal—**Tuesday, 4/12 from 3pm-7pm. Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center**