

Meeting Notes, 7/15/12
First United Methodist Church
Natural Step Ministry Team

Attending: Marge Stevens, Valerie White, Marian Veley, Rebecca Marti, Corinne Butzin, Rev. Bonnie Parr-Phillipson

Absent members, send minutes to: Robin Proebsting, Sara Power, LoErna Simpson, Kris Graves, Jeanie Goul, Pat Smythe, Kim Burnap (church office), Maureen Beezhold (Natural Step), Matt Gregory (FUMC web master); Also send to Ken Hilton (Finance), Dave Straub, Terry Bolin (Trustees), Bill Proebsting (Sacred Space Gardener)

Next meetings: Sunday, September 16, 2012, 3:30 – 5 p.m. Round Table Room 106b

Landscape/Garden: Corinne presented a schematic and explanation of phase one for developing the new edible garden area. Based on conversations with Dave Straub and Terry Bolin, the proposal is to install a stand pipe for a hose and cap off the sprinklers in the parking strip on Jackson Street, between the two driveways. There was a motion by Valerie and a second by Corinne with unanimous approval to spend up to \$450 for this work. The funds will come from the Garden Club grant of \$150 and the rest from the Football Parking reserve fund. Dave Straub will be notified to go ahead with the work. His crew has a two week backlog.

Phase two of the project was discussed. Marge will arrange for the papering and mulching of the grass after the plumbing work has been done, likely in August. The cost of hog fuel mulch is \$17.50 per cubic yard. We will need to leave room for passenger egress from vehicles parking on the street in front of the garden area. Corinne will draw up a scale model for placement of raised beds. There will be aisle spaces wide enough for wheelchair access. The raised beds will be tall enough to be visible to pedestrians to minimize tripping. The area around the fire department pipe will be maintained for easy access. The water supply can be hooked up to a drip irrigation system on a timer for low maintenance. Corinne is donating wooden boards for the raised bed structures. She will enlist the assistance of volunteers from the ministry team (Rebecca, Marian, Kris?), and the youth, to select the boards for the beds. Marge has a table saw that can be used for cutting them to size. Assembly will take place on site. Corinne will estimate the amount of planting soil needed, and the cost. (Some soil from the previous vegetable beds might be used. Corinne is talking with people who may want the concrete blocks from the previous beds.) Plants have not yet been determined. Potential ones would be herbs, butterfly and bee attractors, or perennials.

This information is being sent to Terry Bolin and Dave Straub of Trustees, Bill Proebsting of the Sacred Space Gardening, and Ken Hilton of Finance.

Sharing Table Update – plant and produce are being shared on Sunday mornings. Marge will write up an article for the church newsletter promoting the use of the sharing table.

Litter Pick-Up – We will need to schedule another work party in September. Marge will contact parties who have indicated an interest.

Football parking – we will cooperate again this year with the Jammin and APJ groups for football parking workers and profit sharing. The three dates for our groups are: Sept 8, Oct 20, and Nov 3

Leadership of Natural Step Ministry Team: Marge is ready to turn over leadership of the Natural Step team, after six + years. It is good for the organization's creativity and energy to have a change of leadership from time to time. *****If you are interested in becoming the Ministry Team leader, please contact Marge or Rev. Bonnie for more information.*****

Mark your calendar:

Anytime – write articles on Natural Step for church newsletter
September 16, 2012 – Natural Step Meeting, report back on SNAP special offering
September 22 – World Car Free Day
September TBA – litter patrol on Airport Road
Autumn – Communities Take Charge project
Ongoing – Solar Electric Panels on church facilities

Next Steps for Garden Project (as of June 28, 2012)

Corinne has met with Dave and Terry from Trustees. There is no hurry to move the old cinder block and soil materials at this time. Corinne prepared a report and schematic, which I will attach in jpeg format, which spells out a plan for irrigation water at the new garden site. This plan calls for installation of a stand pipe which will serve as a hose bib connection for irrigation. There is currently an automatic sprinkler system with six heads in this area, which will be disconnected and capped. The work involved is:

- Dig to find main pipe

- Identify where we want the standing pipe (suggested near the hydrant)

- Install the stand pipe with hose connection

- Cap the current sprinklers

The estimated cost is \$150 for materials, \$260 - \$300 for labor, for a total of up to \$450

Dave's crew could do the work, with about two weeks lead time

We would be restricted from placing any obstructions around the fire hydrant pipe, but ground cover plants would be ok

We might be able to help with labor if anyone wants to, but it would have to work into Dave's crew's schedule, and we would have to work at a different time than them.

Marge will send this information in an email to the natural step ministry team, and ask for the team's suggestions and, once we have agreed on a plan, expenditure permission. For the expenditure of around \$450, we have a grant for \$150 from the Evening Garden Club. We have \$1,129 in the football parking fund which could cover the remaining \$300, if the committee approves that.

This would be the first step in preparing the area for a garden. We should anticipate further expenses for the completion, after we have put together the design.