

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. A(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: December 6, 2011

TITLE: Northside Gardeners Request to Move to Baldwin Garden Site

DEPARTMENT: Recreation and Parks	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. License Agreement (12/28/10)	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Anita Jones-McNair: 918-7381 George Seiz: 918-7427 Randy Dodd: 918-7326

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board of Aldermen to consider the request from the Northside Community Garden to share space with the Baldwin Park Community Garden Committee and relocate their cistern, shed and tools to Henry W. Baldwin Park.

INFORMATION:

Greta Lee, Master Gardener of the Northside Community Garden, requested the Board to consider/approve her garden group joining the Baldwin Park Community Garden Committee and relocating several items the group has used. The Northside Garden group will have to move from their current location by the end of December, 2011. They have been exploring options and to date have not found a suitable location. The Northside and Baldwin Park gardeners met to discuss the merger. Along with transferring garden membership, the Northside gardeners have a shed that is 8' x 5.5' x 6' currently on a 8' x 8' platform, tools and a 1,100 gallon water tank that is 7' in diameter and 5' high at the center also on a 8' x 8' platform.

Staff met on site November 29, 2011 to discuss possibilities. During that meeting, staff had an opportunity to talk with several Baldwin Park gardeners. They were not aware of the request moving forward and wanted an opportunity to meet as a group to discuss and present some feedback for the next Board meeting. They expressed wanting to help, however, had some hesitations. They welcome additional membership, but the Northside Community gardeners have more members than the garden can accommodate. They feel that merging all of the Northside Community gardeners with the Baldwin Park gardeners would leave no room to increase community involvement in the garden. Also space for the shed, cistern and additional beds are possibly more than the Baldwin Park gardeners wish to accommodate. The dedication of additional space for use by one or both community garden groups will necessitate a revision to the license agreement (Attachment B). No impacts to the stream restoration and stormwater management efforts recently installed are anticipated from this request.

Staff is expecting a water catchment proposal from the Baldwin Park gardeners for a project they wanted to have reviewed. Also pending from the Baldwin Park gardeners is the membership/application process and community outreach update the Board requested in October 2011.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Town of Carrboro should not incur any fiscal impact from this request.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff offers the following recommendations:

1. The Board should consider the Baldwin Park Gardeners input.
2. Should the Board decide to merge the garden groups together:
 - A) Grant permission for Northside Garden members to move their shed and cistern within the current fenced garden site. Recommend that the cistern be located in the northwest corner of the garden.
 - B) Revise the license agreement to grant permission to expand the garden by moving the fence 12' to the north to accommodate additional space.
 - C) Prior to approval of underground pipe installation, Town and OWASA staff have an opportunity to review the plan, and all underground utilities in the vicinity be field verified.

A future consideration is to replace the above ground cistern with an underground cistern to preserve space, provide security and minimize any potential aesthetic concerns.