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>> Councilmember Pyle: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm sorry to be late. Call the meet to order. As I'm madly searching for my glasses, there's only one item that's been dropped. Other than that we're ready to work with the agenda as is. I need a motion to approve the agenda. We're approving the agenda or the work plan or --

>> Councilmember Pyle: The drop.

>> Councilmember Rocha: I did have an item I wanted to raise on the work plan if that's possible. Do we do roll call? I'm good. If I could pose a question of staff on the work plan. As far as who's here to represent that, City Manager's office or -- no? No one's here to do that, actually, we don't have Kip or --

>> I think Norberto would -- we can relay information.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Okay.

>> Angel Rios, acting director of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services, I can go ahead --

>> Councilmember Rocha: I just wanted to vet an issue, I thought I would probably be approaching here, and then in T&E, for the work plan in the future, just wanted to raise it, it's more on the neighborhood watch sign program and how we fund or don't fund that program, and how staff deals with sign installation. And funding for that. Because if the community's interested in pursuing that and paying that for themselves or the residents for an individual sign to be posted if they get a certain percentage engaged we don't really have a funding mechanism as I understand for even a council office to put dollars there to fund one of those or two signs or three signs. So in the future I'm going to be raising this issue with D.O.T. as well through T&E, just to get the community on the same page to work with the community so we can establish some form or mechanism to do that if a neighborhood is interested.

>> This is specific to the neighborhood watch program?

>> Councilmember Rocha: Yes, exactly.

>> Councilmember Pyle: I'd like to incorporate that into part 2 of the committee reports, number 2 of the committee reports, that would be the most --

>> Councilmember Rocha: I don't know if councilmembers had any experience with that.

>> Councilmember Constant: There might be a quicker way to tackle it. The Public Safety committee has, every month, a standing item for updates from the Police Department. We could bring it up there. Because getting it on to this or T&E work plan requires going to Rules and all that other stuff. But we have a standing item where it could be just discussed and we could get an update and get the ball rolling without having to go through the formal work plan process if you want to do that.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Do you think D.O.T. might claim more ownership on this than PD on that or how do you any --

>> Councilmember Constant: PD runs the program but why don't you and I talk afterwards. Since I chair that committee, we can get the ball rolling and save on paperwork.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Getting in terms of urgency, if it falls within that committee I would be more than happy and appreciative if you would raise the issue. Thank you.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Move to approve.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Motion to approve, that is unanimous. We have one committee member missing today, that would be Councilmember Kansen Chu, who has already sent a note that he will not be here. So with that, we

are going to drop the first one, as we mentioned. We are going to move on to reports to committee and begin with Steve Hammock here to present some information about community gardens.

>> Good afternoon, everybody, thanks for having us. Yes, we were excited to bring community gardens update forward. We think we have a great program and we'd like to highlight that today. Actually if measure of success is by level of participation then this is an incredibly successful program. We actually have 100 more people on the waiting list since January 1st to be part of a community garden plot or program. But young and old participate as the photo you can see shows. And you know we're excited about it, because our department promotes healthy life styles, we promote exercise, social interaction, and most importantly stewardship of our park spaces and our open spaces amongst the city and so we're very proud of this program. And so Raphael Gomez next to me is our program manager. And this is one of his programs that he manages, and he'll run through some of the details of what we've done and what the outlook for the future. So Raphael.

>> As Steve mentioned it's a very popular program. Picture back. People participate for various reasons. Whether it's a social gathering place, whether it's to grow food, whether it's therapeutic or maybe they just enjoy gardening. The program started in 1977, with one community garden called Nuestra Tierra and that's in District 7. Our newest community garden is Guadalupe Garden in District 3, and it opened in 2008, and it's our only garden where we have recycled water. We currently have 19 community gardens with a thousand plots. Our smallest garden is Rainbow in District 1 with four plots. Our largest is Mayfair in District 5 with 123 plots. And the plot sizes vary, from as small as 150 square feet to 700 square feet. Some of the things that people grow are vegetables, flowers, fruits, and herbs. We have 14 gardens on city property, three on school district property, and two on Santa Clara Valley Water District property. In terms of operations and maintenance, the way the program runs is, the gardeners fill out a registration form on a yearly basis and they pay a fee. And the fee covers the whole fee for the entire year and the fee ranges from \$45 and \$200 a year. The reason for the big range is depending on the size of their garden plot and how much water they use. To help us -- to help us manage these gardens, we have what we call volunteer garden management teams and these are individuals that volunteer their time to help with the upkeep of the garden. And typically between two to four individuals per garden, and in return, they get a free plot. We meet with them three times a year to talk about -- to share ideas, talk about registration, elections,

composting, one thing I didn't mention was the volunteer management teams there is elections that are held or sometimes staff just appoints somebody. For example, if somebody quits in the year, or in the case of one of our gardens, our manager passed away so we just appointed somebody to that position. In terms of maintenance the city does provide some level of maintenance. We do have porta potties at some of our gardens, we provide fence repair, tree trimming, irrigation repair. But for the most part the gardens are self-run, they are maintained by the gardeners themselves. The gardeners are responsible for any trash that they have. They are responsible for the maintenance of the walkways. So as I mentioned, they're pretty much self-run. In terms of staffing we have one part time staff to coordinate all 19 gardens. Some of the challenge that we have again it's staffing. We only have a part time staff member for 19 gardens. And a lot of times, we get phone calls or e-mails asking questions. We help with registration, we help with elections, so as the program grows, we're going to need more resources to run the program. Another challenge that we have, as Steve mentioned, we have about 1000 plots available. However, we have over 400 people on the waiting list, and it's growing weekly. As Steve mentioned, we have added about 100 people since January 1st of this year. One strategy that we are implementing is as the larger plots become vacant, for example, a 600 square foot plot, what we are doing is splitting them in half to allow two individuals to use the plot now instead of one. We have done that successful, and that's the reason why we have over a thousand now. Some changes that were implemented this year, we made some changes. But before we implemented these changes, we conducted some outreach in the summer and fall of 2011. And the changes went into effect in January. One of the changes was to implement an administrative fee of 5 cents per square foot which equates to about \$5, well, \$5 per every hundred square feet annually and this will raise approximately \$21,000 to help pay for staff to run the gardens. Next change we made was, in the water bill, accounting some of the gardens had their water bills in the garden's name or the gardener's name. So on the advice of the City Attorney and recommendation for liability reasons we switched those over to the City of San José. So now all the water bills are under the City's name. And for the bank accounts some gardens were using the City's tax I.D. number to open up a bank account. So now the gardeners are opening up bank accounts but using the tax I.D. that they received from the IRS. Lastly, due to the popularity and demand of the program, and as I mentioned, we have over 400 people on the waiting list, we asked the nonresidents to vacate their plots, as of January, and resulted in 38 people being -- their plots were taken away. And we gave it to San José residents. So 38 nonresidents were asked to leave the program, and we put in, off the waiting list, 38 San José

residents. Partnerships of important to leverage resources to potentially expand the program. One partnership that we're working with is with the health trust. We received a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to evaluate strategies to expand the program. Another partnership we're working with is the county. The county is building a new Marshall Kottle park and they're going to put in a community garden at that location. There is a potential for another community garden partnership with the county at the site near Almaden and highway 87. And then, our communal garden concept we have a partnership with Vegolution. They are running a community garden at Prusch Park currently. And lastly, with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, for a community garden near Williams Street Park in District 3, where the city will lease the land from the Water District and the city will in turn to lease it to up Communiversity to develop the site and also to operate it and maintain the garden. And that concludes my presentation. We can move on to questions.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Well, thank you. That was an interesting presentation, that's certainly something our city has been extraordinarily successful with. We are really happy to hear that. Do we have questions? Pete.

>> Councilmember Constant: Just comments. I know that the few gardens that we have out in my district are in very high demand, and the renovation of the one at Calabazas in connection with library expansion has been going very well. So everybody -- I think everybody agrees these are a great asset for the community. I think there was stress dealing with the resident versus nonresident issue, I think the city made the right decision given the demand we have. It would be one thing if we had a thousand plots and 100 were empty and we were making them available to people. I would love to see in the future if there was a way that we could also explore, we have a lot of small vacant parcels throughout all of our districts. Where some have been vacant forever. And that perhaps, we can reach out to those property owners, and say, if you don't have plans, in the next five years, maybe we can arrange a lease agreement. Or a donation of the property or something. Where the owners could help provide a benefit to the residents. But there is also an exit strategy for them if they have an opportunity to develop plans for whatever purpose they were intending and banking that land for. And I think as long as we entered into agreements with those who are taking the plots, our residents, that they know that that is the situation and that there could be a six-month notice to vacate because of development or whatever the case, I think it could be a win-win situation. And I know that it would help the community to get rid of some of the -- I hate to use the

word blight because they're vacant, but just non-usable or non-used, not very attractive vacant lots that could be used in the meantime. So if that could be something we looked into as we move forward.

>> I just want to comment on that. I think the city of Chicago is doing exactly that. They're doing exactly what you just said and it's very innovative and very creative and very supported in the city. So they're moving forward with that. It's a great idea. With our partner, the health trust, they are very interested in bringing resources to the table to maybe help us get to that point.

>> Councilmember Constant: Just my last comment. It looks like 8 and 10 are the only districts that don't have any, is that true based on this attachment?

>> 8, 9 and 10.

>> Councilmember Constant: 8, 9 and 10, okay. So I would encourage that whatever we do going forward that we put some emphasis on those districts. So that everybody has an opportunity throughout the city.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Okay, I would like to mention, if you're an audience member and would like to speak, you do need to fill out a yellow card that's available over there with Susan Davis. Don.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Thank you. Was going to ask two questions but I guess I'll start where Councilmember Constant left off and that was that 8, 9 and 10 issue. I want to thank staff. Thank these two gentlemen were able to meet me out in the district and look at a site. And I'd like to also mention, it would be great to include potential opportunities for sites such as PG&E or even school districts that may have opportunities for us to use joint use piece of their land as long as we can provide some of the services. So I appreciate their taking the time to come out and I understand they are going to work with PG&E and look at this site that's currently being used by one resident, and I don't know if that one resident has an agreement with PG&E, we'll find that out. I also want to make clear: Let's not get that one resident in trouble, either, but there's an opportunity for a larger use for a lot more folks. I appreciate you guys, your taking the time to focus on that. With that said I had a question about

looking at new sites and how your staff is looking at that given the 8, 9 and 10 issue, being able to fill out a little more of the city.

>> Sure I'll take that question. We have actually gone out and identified some locations in all three of those districts and have done some tours. And have got some interested community partners. Really a lot of these gardens start from the interest of the community and that's where it blossoms and grass roots kind of effort. But we do have a great interest like I said with our partner now, our new partner, the health trust to partner, bring some resources to the table, identify some properties, and then maybe at some point in time we can either do what Councilmember Constant said, by leasing it or actually buying it. And then there are also existing properties that are park property, that are public property already that's on our list. So we have some -- our focus is there, it's just not keen yet. We want to get it keen because of the budget crisis we've been going through. But we feel like moving forward that's exactly where we want to go but we want to bring partners with us.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Thank you. I had questions about the last paragraph on page 3, negotiation of new community garden site development and the partnership we are doing there. How did that site come about to be identified for that opportunity? Was that as a result of us, or did they suggest that?

>> Are you referring to the Communiversity site?

>> Councilmember Rocha: Yes.

>> Actually I'll let angel take that. He was really involved in that discussion.

>> Councilmember, angel Rios, acting director, PRNS. Actually, we had an opportunity, with the grant that we received from the Health Trust, it really -- that gave us an opportunity to take a look at some alternative approaches to community gardens. Moving forward, as Steve has mentioned, we're very cognizant that we do have minimal staffing. At the same time, we don't want that to be the sole deterrent for why we don't grow, right? So what we're looking at is opportunities to really explore some new pilot sites. The Communiversity

opportunity came up, we were approached by the health trust, Communiversity, a local nonprofit, that actually offered to actually take care of O&M, take care of not only the maintenance but also the recruitment and the management of the site, resulting in a cost neutral proposition for the city. And so we're looking at that as a pilot site location with the idea that if that we can get some success there, we can replicate it at minimal to no cost to the city.

>> Councilmember Rocha: That's a wonderful opportunity. Thank you. With that I'll move that we accept the report.

>> Second.

>> Councilmember Pyle: I would note that I was in complete agreement with Pete Constant which may be part of the historical aspect of this meeting. Yeah. So thank you for your ideas. Really appreciate. Keep them coming. Keep them coming. With that we have a unanimous vote to accept. Thank you very much for a great report. Don we're ready to include you in the next part. You wanted to mention what you had in mind there because this is a verbal update on the status of neighborhood initiatives.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Yeah, you missed the discussion early on when we modified the work plan. So we can fill you in after the meeting.

>> My apologies for the tardiness. I have a feeling I know what it is.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Golden opportunity there. I don't know. So we're ready for the neighbors bimonthly update. Kip Harkness.

>> Kip Harkness. One is that we've been working for a while with neighbor goods, a startup based out of Los Angeles, based on the premise that we all have a lot of stuff in our houses, that if we would share them with others there would be of mutual benefit to each other. For example I have a power washer, how often do you

need to use it. And it's an online tool that allows you to share and allows neighbors to share goods. Pleased to announce that the knight foundation has awarded them a grant to pilot neighbor-goods 2.0 here exclusively in San José. So we're working to begin that pilot. We are working on the alpha level right now. As soon as we have a beta, we'll make that available to all of you and your community. So we want to make sure we have a robust tool before we roll it out though. So that's a pretty exciting news on neighbor goods.

>> Councilmember Constant: Real quick, Kip, is that something that the neighborhoods commission has been involved in on brought up to date on?

>> We are keeping them up to date and now that we've got the grant, we're going to be pulling them in to help us do a little bit of testing on the alpha and on the beta. We have done a couple of focus group pieces with them outside of the neighborhoods commission and have reached out to them to help us pilot a few things.

>> Councilmember Constant: Then I would also suggest you know, most of our districts, I don't know if all of them but most of our districts have pretty strong leadership groups or round table groups and perhaps getting some of them involved as well. I think would be very beneficial.

>> We'd be delighted to do that. My -- the timing will be as I said I just wanted to make sure we have a strong enough tool because at this point it's got glitches and people involved in it need to know they're working on an alpha. As long as we have a strong beta we will be rolling it out, I'll get the word out to you and all the other councilmembers as soon as we're at that point. As you all know we're in the middle of or just in the process of reaching out to the district with the community budget process this year. And I'm pleased to announce that for the first time this year we've been able to include direct information in the form of a short video from the priority setting session that the neighborhoods and the youth commission did so that the words of the community can be conveyed directly to the words of the community. It's a install piece but I want to make you all aware of that. With that, I'll close my verbal report and open it up to questions or additional items.

>> Councilmember Pyle: We'll have to go through another department, so -- all right. And social host is coming. We are looking at May.

>> Yes, we are anticipating bringing social host to city council for their consideration and approval, May 15th, the evening session so that we can have community participation there.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you for that. All right, and with that, we have a motion to approve the collaborative bimonthly update.

>> Sure, motion.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Or do you need one for this Kip for a verbal?

>> For the neighborhood update you can accept the verbal I think and then I've got the schools update next.

>> Councilmember Pyle: All right so we have a motion, second, both all at once and that is unanimous and we're moving on now to the -- to the bike program, this is part of it. Schools city collaborative.

>> Again, Kip Harkness. We've had a chance to update the superintendents on the safe summer initiative. And had an interactive discussion with them so that we can focus the resources of the safe summer initiative in ways that best complement both the existing programs and unfortunately many of the programs that no longer exist. We're trying to really have a coordinated approach as we do our safe summer initiative for 2012. We also had a brief update on the budget. I also had the opportunity to speak with them on social host which many of them are very, very supportive of. Sort of opened up the question on social host a little more broadly but again we're narrowing that down making a serious of recommendations and we'll bring that to council May 15th. Finally most concretely the city has been awarded grant funding from MTC for an expansion and launch of the walk and roll program, which the pilot version was very successful at shifting young people's habits in terms of getting to school and getting to school safely by walking and biking. And so what the walk and roll program is, is take that

very successful pilot and will expand it to up to 35 different elementary schools over a two-year period to increase both the actual walking and biking and also the support infrastructure and network around safe walking and biking. And so we reached out to the superintendents to get the word out and what we're looking for is essentially schools to self-identify and ask to be involved in that and the Department of Transportation will be probably narrowing down the list of schools from there. And that concludes my presentation on the schools-city collaborative and be happy to take questions at this time.

>> Councilmember Pyle: I'm going to take the prerogative of the chair to mention something. Many of you know, I was a teacher for 25 years. And whenever I saw a child walking by themselves, I would stop the car and say, "You need to walk with another person." And very often, if they wanted a ride home, I would give them a ride home. But it's still happening. We all know about Sierra, and the big hunk that has been going on there. She was walking by herself. And whatever we do in reference to the walking and biking process, I hope that we can do a team-up approach. It's far safer, and we don't live in a safe world when it comes to children. At all times we have to be on message with that. So I hope that can be incorporated into this. It's a great, great, great program, it's something I've been encouraging for years. But I do think we need to work to keep kids safe at the same time.

>> Thank you for that. I will pass that along to the Department of Transportation. I do know a lot of their effort includes such strategies as a walking bus where they get parents and children out walking together in groups. Both for the safety reasons and also the social reason and also third, the fact that when you're doing something in group you become more committed to it. I know they're taking that into consideration but I am sure to give the folks working on that.

>> Councilmember Pyle: They call that the human.

>> Councilmember Constant: I didn't know that, I didn't know that when I'm walking my kids to school in the morning I'm my own human bus. I have no problem getting a group together.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Can I ask on process, especially on the walk and roll program and the coordination we're doing with schools and the funding grant that we got to return as a status report potentially to any committee or just going to proceed with this?

>> I think it's -- would be a great status report. They're in the process now of hiring some additional staff to support this program. And in the process of both soliciting any input from the schools and thinking how strategically they want to make the decisions. Do they want to cluster some schools, do they want to scatter them out. So I think it's something that's very much being created. And so it would very much benefit from your direction and your consideration as we go forward. So I would make that recommendation if that's something that you all would like to see.

>> Councilmember Rocha: Yeah I'd like to hear about it as it gets closer, whether it's June or August for the new school year, that would be great to hear an update, if you wouldn't mind.

>> Be delighted to, and I know they would be, as well.

>> Councilmember Pyle: Thank you for the updates, Kip. Motion to approve and a second. All those in favor, unanimous. And we are adjourned, unless there are people in the audience who wish to speak. No? Thank you for being here. Thank you all.