

## **EDIBLE LANDSCAPES WORK GROUP REPORT – 5/4/2016**

1) Process improvements: We discussed issues raised by two individuals trying to get 2 permits each who have run into problems with the process. The following things came up:

- need for a timeline - prompt response from staff, awareness of planting times/availability of plant material, setting clear expectations with public, recommendation of when to start the process

- what are the criteria for approval? what are grounds for rejection?

- need for staff to track conversations/follow up with emails/keep good records

- Need FAQ on the website, covering:

- availability/need for water

- fencing

- accommodating mowing/mulching a bed so it doesn't need to be mowed

- safety issues

- other proximate plantings/growth of canopy trees (shading)

- should we require a site visit with staff?

- put the appeals process on the website with more detail. Should a call to Mark be the first step?

- need to define what needs to happen in the initial contact between applicant and staff, to include:

- where on the parcel they want to plant

- how big an area

- proximity to other vegetation

- species they want to plant

- water needs and supply

- how the area is currently used/potential user conflicts

We decided to draft three things:

a) edited website text (Satya)

b) FAQ (Mark; send him suggestions)

c) process checklist (Nan)

Please send drafts to by May 4th. Mark will work on scheduling a meeting with the lead staff in about a month.

Additional considerations:

- edible landscaping should be included in any/all parks master planning processes. How do we communicate this to the parks long range planning committee?

- Parks may delay any application for a park in a master planning process, but they should automatically include the permit request in the planning process and connect the applicant to the public input for the plan.

- eventually, we want to do a council briefing on the set of things from the FPC that are likely to generate constituent contact.

- we should draft newsletter text for alders/neighborhoods to spread the word

2) communications materials:

Satya shared edits to Martin's outline. Martin will revise based on those and our brief conversation and share with the pollinator implementation work group, which is meeting with relevant staff soon. This group will take up another draft after that meeting.