

Present: Michael Halley, Daryn Hamilton, Doug Flournoy, Scott Timm, Darrel Bisgard, John Myer, Eli Morgan, Bill Morgan, Sascha Kyssa, Minca Borg, Kim Keller

Points of discussion

Bill Morgan and his son Eli made the case for local arborist contractors to be allowed to haul Fairfield citizens' yard waste to the community compost site. They feel that since it's every FF citizen's right to use the site it doesn't matter who hauls their yard waste to the site. Public Works superintendent Darrel Bisgard is concerned that brush would accumulate too quickly if all contractors were allowed to dump at the site, which is why he created a policy that no contractors can dump (though they are welcome to take mulch/compost). The city pays for a grinding service whenever material accumulates, which is funded with tax payers' money through the Public Works department budget. Allowing contractors to use the site could subsidize their operations at tax payers' expense. Daryn Hamilton expressed his preference that contractors manage dumping their materials internally rather than using the community compost site. While smaller contractors may not add much to the debris piles larger contractors could overload operations, and there is no simple way to allow some contractors but not others.

Hamilton motioned to keep the community compost policy that Bisgard put in place and not allow any contractors to dump at the site. Doug Flournoy seconded the motion contingent that we revisit the issue in a year's time. Motion passed unanimously.

Sascha Kyssa and Minca Borg of Naturewise Academy have developed a model community garden design that requires minimal input and minimal maintenance while ensuring long term accountability. For this season they plan to plant a 50' x 50' garden plot on the Bonnel property at the corner of Grimes and 3rd St (former St. Mary's site). Their model includes donating half the produce to the Lord's Cupboard and selling the majority of the remainder to local restaurants to cover costs. Volunteers will help with site preparation, planting, maintenance, and harvesting and will receive a small amount of harvested produce as gifts. Citizens who frequent the Lord's Cupboard will be strongly encouraged to volunteer at the garden. Kim Keller of the Master Gardeners will talk to that group at an upcoming meeting to gauge their interest in helping with this project.

The project has a modular budget so that it can be started with minimal investment, and all that's asked of the city is to load mulch from the community compost site (a service the Public Works dept already provides) and help get the word out to the community. Michael Halley confirmed that this project fits within the city's Blue Zones project responsibilities and offered to facilitate to help make it happen.

Recommendations/Actions

Committee will recommend that the full council formalize the policy that Darrel Bisgard put in place for the community compost site then review the policy next year.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Halley