

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Ann Robb, Director of Library and Recreation Services
SUBJECT: Community Demonstration Garden
DATE: October 6, 2009

NEEDS: For City Council to consider approving a License Agreement between the City and Transitions Paso Robles Food Group (TPRFG) for a community garden.

- Facts:**
1. TPRFG submitted a proposal to construct and administer a demonstration garden at Centennial Park.
 2. The garden will demonstrate to the public how to convert existing lawn into food production. It incorporates water conservation, healthy food production, and community interaction. It will model best gardening practices, planting for our local climate, self sufficiency, and sustainability. A portion of the food produced will be donated to our local food bank. The garden is proposed to be phased in, with the initial work beginning upon approval of the LOA.
 3. TPRFG will design, construct and administer the garden. Its members will use community donations of materials and labor. They will recruit, train and schedule volunteer work crews. They will host free community workshops on various topics pertaining to gardening.
 4. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (9/8/09) and the Senior Advisory Committee (9/14/09) voted unanimously to recommend approval of the garden project.

**ANALYSIS &
CONCLUSION:**

A community demonstration garden will incorporate a number of positive practices including water conservation and healthy food production. It will serve to demonstrate to the public how they can adopt environmentally sound practices in their own home yards. It will help feed our local low income residents. It will provide opportunities for socialization, education, intergenerational understanding and civic pride.

POLICY

REFERENCE: 2010 – 2013 City Council Goals; Economic Strategy

FISCAL

IMPACT: Project is funded by volunteers and donors associated with TPRFG.
Some savings anticipated through reduction of water use in the garden area.

- OPTIONS:**
- a. Adopt Resolution 09-xxx, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a License Agreement with TPRFG for a demonstration community garden.
 - b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

RESOLUTION NO. 09- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
EL PASO DE ROBLES AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT
WITH TRANSITIONS PASO ROBLES FOOD GROUP
FOR A COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

WHEREAS, the City, through its Library and Recreation Services Department (LRS) and Public Works Department (PW) is interested in demonstrating water conservation techniques, developing community gardens, and providing food to the hungry; and

WHEREAS, Transitions Paso Robles Food Group (TPRFG) has offered to design, build, administer and maintain a demonstration community garden on a one year trial basis; and

WHEREAS, a community demonstration garden will promote responsible use of water, planting appropriate for the Paso Robles climate, and intergenerational community interaction; and

WHEREAS, TPRFG has agreed to donate approximately 20% of garden harvest to a local food bank; and

WHEREAS, there is an appropriate site for a community demonstration garden at Centennial Park mutually selected by the City and TPRFG;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council authorizes the City Manager to enter into a License Agreement with TPRFG, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, subject to any minor technical or clarifying changes approved by the City Attorney, allowing use of approximately 3,500 square feet of space at Centennial Park for a community demonstration garden.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 6th day of October, 2009, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cathy David, Deputy City Clerk

