

# AMBROSE RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

AGENDA CATEGORY:	
BOARD MATTERS:	<u>8b</u>
CONSENT CALENDAR:	_____
PUBLIC HEARING:	_____
STUDY SESSION:	_____
_____:	_____

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** April 8, 2021

**ITEM TITLE:** Consider Options for Operating the Gloria Magleby Community Garden and Provide Staff with Direction

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Directors consider the following program options for the Gloria Magleby Community Garden and provide staff with direction.

1. **Completely volunteer based operation (original concept).** Volunteers would work under the direction of District staff in performing all duties related to the garden including programming, maintenance. Fundraising would be collaborative between staff and volunteers.
2. **Establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a non-profit organization to operate the garden within the mission of the District.** Liability would substantially shift from the District to the non-profit, however the District would retain jurisdiction on the types of activities/programs occurring at the garden. The non-profit would maintain the site, including the garden plots, surrounding landscaping (inside and outside of the perimeter fencing), by generally accepted community standards of aesthetics and upkeep. Other responsibilities would include, but not limited to, removing weeds, graffiti, and trash in a timely manner from all areas of the parcel. The non-profit would operate the garden following a set of garden rules, and gardeners must sign an agreement and waiver of liability.
3. **Lease the garden to an outside agency.** This would allow the agency to develop programs outside of the District's mission and would shift liability to the lessee. The District would have no responsibilities for the planning, setup, management, and carrying out operations and maintenance on the parcel. The District would have no obligation to make any alterations, improvements, or repairs of any kind, or to provide any services or other support.
4. **Recommend an alternative to the above choices.**

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Currently the Board has allocated \$2,000 in FY 20/21 for maintenance of the community garden. The cost could increase or decrease depending on the option the Board selects.

**BACKGROUND:**

The community garden was started 2009 under the leadership of local resident and volunteer Michael Kerr who, with the help of other volunteers and \$3,000 seed money from the District, constructed garden boxes and installed an irrigation system.

The original mission of the garden was to provide opportunities for positive social interaction and recreation in a beautiful, non-threatening atmosphere where individuals of all ages and backgrounds may interact in a healthy pursuit. Individual garden boxes were rented on an annual basis and maintained according to specific rules. Crops from each garden box were the property of the renter and were not intended to be donated or sold as this would trigger potential liability concerns.

In 2014 the garden was named after Gloria "Glo" Magleby, a former board member and community volunteer. Mr. Kerr expressed frustration that he was not recognized for his contribution and abruptly severed his connection with the garden and removed a dozen boxes from garden in protest.

During the first year of the garden approximately 80% of the plots were rented. The following year that number dropped to approximately 40%. The decline may be attributed to a change in rules which required gardeners to water other renter's boxes. Since 2014 few, if any, garden boxes have been rented.

Approximately four years ago Jasmine Cisneros approached the District about volunteering at the garden. Over the past 4 years Ms. Cisneros has organized special events, garden cleanups, children's events, and recruited volunteers for special tasks. However, a substantial amount of labor that goes into the garden is provided singularly by Ms. Cisneros with additional support coming from District staff. Ms. Cisneros has expanded the mission of the garden to include harvesting healthy food to be distributed to those in need which varies from the initial vision as previously mentioned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Long, General Manager