

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **COMMUNITY GARDENS**, Authorization for Acceptance and Implementation of a Grant (\$35,455) from CT DEP and Agreement for improvements to Community Gardens managed by the New Haven Land Trust, Inc. (Chief Administrative Officer).

REPORT: 1452-05

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Before the Board is a grant application for funding in an amount of \$35,455 from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for improvements in twenty community gardens to be managed and performed by the New Haven Land Trust. As the grant program is only available to municipalities, the City is requested to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut and the Land Trust to accept and disperse the funds in the interest of the Land Trust. The grant is matched by \$19,091 in Land Trust funds and may be used for replacement of garden beds, soil, mulch, organic compost, non-power tools, plant materials, fencing, signage, lighting, outdoor seating, rainwater harvesting and irrigation in the 20 gardens which are located at the following addresses:

1598 Chapel Street, 145 Davenport Avenue, 179 Dixwell Avenue, 182 Grand Avenue, 21 Greenwood Street, 211 Rosette Street, 358 Blatchley Avenue, 52 William Street, 11-13 Ann Street, 49 Bassett Street, 220 English Street, 221 Shelton Avenue, 527 Dixwell Avenue, corner of Ivy Street and Shelton Avenue, 24-28 Adeline Street, 36-38 Redfield Street, 226 Starr Street, 242 Starr Street, 81 Springside Avenue, and 90 Clifton Street.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Grant funds may not be used for chemical fertilizers, herbicides, maintenance or purchase of power equipment, sidewalk upgrades, purchase of a building, or purchase of any plant on the State's Invasive Species list.

The Land Trust is responsible for obtaining any City and State permits necessary to perform the work in the gardens, for procuring materials and supplies, and for contracting out any work in accord with the Agreement terms. The improvements are required to be complete within five years of the approval of the agreement.

The City agrees to maintain the gardens following improvements for at least ten years and should any of the gardens be converted to another use, the City must replace the open space elsewhere in the City in accord with State Statute.

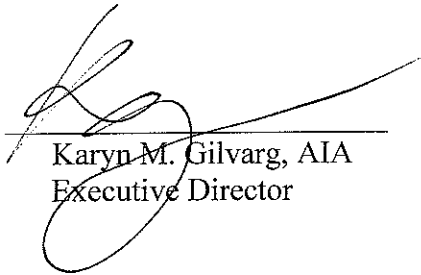
ADVICE

The Commission has long supported the Community Garden concept and supports the New Haven Land Trust in its shepherding of the gardens over the years. These green spaces have added life to the neighborhoods where they are situated, and have raised interest and responsibility among the caretakers, some who are now raising food for their families and neighbors.

The Commission recommends approval.

ADOPTED: May 18, 2011
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director