



MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental Concerns Committee

THROUGH: Carl Goldsmith, Director of Public Works *CG*

FROM: David Gorman, Assistant Director of Public Works *DGG*

SUBJECT: Vacant Lot Gardens

DATE: April 18, 2012

Per the Chair's request, Staff is placing an item on the meeting agenda to discuss the possibility of allowing gardens on vacant parcels. Such parcels could be privately or, on occasion, publicly owned. Currently, such an activity on a parcel without a principal structure is not allowed by Village Code.

Points to discuss include:

- Gaining permission from the property owner if other than the Village
- Possible poor or no topsoil, especially following a demolition
- Lack of faucet for watering
- Acceptance by the neighbors
- Responsibility for mowing and weed removal on poorly maintained parcels
- Insurance for general liability and property damage that may be required by owner
- Responsibility for start of year readying and end of year cleanup
- Gardens on vacant lots could be allowed administratively by the Director of Community Development by amending Section 92.33 as underlined below.

§ 92.33 XERISCAPING.

In cases where the person, firm, or corporation owning or controlling any lot or parcel of property, landscapes said lot or parcel of property either with vegetation native to the region, so as to reduce or eliminate required maintenance, or a vegetable/flower garden that does not extend into the front, side or corner side yard setbacks, said person, firm or corporation shall provide upon request of the Director of Community Development a landscape plan, including plan box detailing the species of vegetation planted, or other documentation required by the Director to show compliance with section 92.31 of this Code.

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cc: David Hulseberg, Village Manager
 Bill Heniff, Director of Community Development
 Joan Rogers, Code Enforcement Coordinator