

Code	700016
Subject	Fay Harris
Date	4/26/2010
Interviewer	Jeff Auger
Abstract	Fay Harris moved to Cleveland from Pennsylvania to work as a Chemist. Fay sits on the board of the Near West Side Development Corporation. She is working on planting a community garden in her neighborhood as a way of engaging the community and bringing them together.
Special Notes	
minutes:	0:40:36
	0 Intro, born in Meadville, PA in 1957. Described growing up in Meadville.
	1 Meadville was 75% rural and small town. Came to Cleveland to work as a Chemist for industry
	2 Lived in Shaker Heights when first moved to the Cleveland area. Eventually moved to the west side of Cleveland.
	3 Describes the Ohio City and Detroit Shoreway areas, sits on the board of the Near West Side Development Corporation.
	4 Talks about the site location and why it was chosen.
	5 The garden is a means to get the community involved and talking to each other. Speaks about the division in the neighborhood.
	6 People in Cleveland are very closed off. There are children in the area that are mischief makers and part of the garden would target getting these kids involved with the community.
	7 Discusses distributing a flyer informing people in the community about the garden.
	8 Talks about the relationship between the city of Cleveland and Re-Imagining Cleveland. Has seen a major decline in the city over the past decade.
	9 The city could have spent a higher concentration on studying the problem on vacant lots before it was fashionable the larger problems could have been avoided.
	10 Understand and admires NPI for putting together Re-Imagining with limited resources.
	11 Talks about the impact on the city and future garden projects.
	12 Parents were from the south, always had a garden every year.
	13 Talks about teaching people how to cook fresh food. A lot of the people in the community are low income and eat a lot of canned food.
	14 Parents moved to PA in 1947. Her father worked for the rail road and wasn't happy with the pay and went to night school and eventually opened his own business.
	15 The garden is at 1942 West 47th Street. Talks about how previous community garden experience influenced the current garden project.
	16 Would have put the garden even if the Re-Imagining Cleveland grant was not granted.
	17 Talks about plants that will go into the garden. Giving vegetables to the seniors in the neighborhood.
	18 Talks about any potential backlash from the garden. Waiting on fencing. Mentions talking to the Mayor about problems with some of the permits.
	19 Would give produce to people if they asked, but would not want people to steal.
	20 Leaving a few plots open so that people who get an interest late in the season have an opportunity to get involved.
	21 Recounts a story of a woman letting her kids play in the lot before it was cleaned and the confrontation she had with the mother about keeping the kids off the lot for their own safety.
	22 Discusses conducting the soil testing herself and process involved.
	23 Talks about doing soil testing for other people.
	24 Discusses collaborating with other gardens.
	25 Would like to encourage the other gardeners using the community garden to go to the workshops.
	26 Talks about the city decay effecting community mentality. Discusses investors and slum lords owning 60 % of the property in the area but not keeping up with maintenance.
	27 Talks about people breaking in vacant houses and vandalism on the street over.
	28 Discusses the role of banks and slum lords in the foreclosure crisis in the area.
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	30 Talks about the apartment building across the street from the garden. Would repeatedly call the police and city hall about the apartment complaining about the illegal activities being conducted.
	31 The apartment was evacuated due to the building being foreclosed on.
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	33 Talks about sinkholes and filling them with fill dirt.
	34 Discusses the garden in five to ten years. Would like to stay engaged with the people in the neighborhood.
	35 Talks about other projects she is involved in. Would like to create gourmet chocolates.
	36 Mentions her mother still gardens at 82 years of age. Discusses collaborating with schools.
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	38 Talks about getting high school students involved with the garden.
	39 Attended Penn State and discusses the choice to major in Chemistry.
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