

Code	700027
Subject	Robert Hill
Date	6/2/2010
Interviewer	Kieth Peppers
Abstract	Robert Hill is the president of the West Park Community Coalition. The project, Bellaire Garden Landscaping Project, was given a grant by Re-Imagining Cleveland but due to personal issues that arose and the lack of volunteers to take up the project, Robert returned the grant. Robert hopes to apply for another Re-Imagining grant in the future but intends to do enough work before hand so the same problem does not arise. The project was originally designed to beautify the street of Bellaire and possibly be used as an educational tool for the local children.
Special Notes	
minutes:	0:37:56
	0 Intro, born in Cleveland on the west side. He left Cleveland at the age of 16 and went to Pennsylvania to finish high school.
	1 Lived in California after spending nine years in the military. Moved back to Cleveland to take care of an aging parent.
	2 Discusses the Bellaire Garden Landscaping Project.
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	4 The bi-laws of the Community Coalition require efforts to beautify the community.
	5 Talks about the process for finding and becoming involved with the Re-Imagining Cleveland grant.
	6 Talks about making arrangements with the city to utilize the land.
	7 Personal issues arose in 2009 that required Robert to not turn the grant back to Re-Imagining Cleveland.
	8 Talks about building support in the community with volunteers.
	9 Talks about recruiting volunteers during the Emery Park festival that is held every August.
	10 No one else could undertake the project after personal issues arose due to too few volunteers recruited for the project.
	11 Talks about how volunteers were being recruited.
	12 Discusses collaborating with the Earthday Coalition.
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	14 Talks about the plans and pattern for the proposed garden.
	15 Would have liked benches and observatory areas for children. Plans on resubmitting a grant proposal to Re-Imagining Cleveland in the future but would like to carefully plan and recruit people before submitting a grant proposal again.
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	17 Discusses the origins and activities of the West Park Community Coalition.
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	19 Voted in as president last year, elections are held every two years. There are 60 members of the coalition but the majority are elderly so the garden project poses a challenge.
	20 Talks about the neighborhood being majority African American and is one of the oldest communities of it's kind. He mentions there is a historic plaque in the neighborhood.
	21 The neighborhood demographics are changing, but it is difficult to recruit younger people.
	22 The garden was proposed as a way to attract younger people and working class people to the community.
	23 Talks about putting surveillance cameras up and down the street of Bellaire as a means of improving safety and crime reduction.
	24 Discusses other project West Park Coalition is involved with.
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	27 Talks about the existence of other community gardens in West Park. Attempting to acquire a vacant senior home and convert it into an resource center.
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	29 The Boys and Girls club would like to have a role in the community, a new resource center would allow for this involvement.
	30 Discusses attending some of the NPI workshops and how he found out about the Re-Imaging Cleveland grant.
	31 Would like to take a different approach for the next time they apply for a Re-Imagining Cleveland grant.
	32 Talks about starting the "Green Thumb Club." Discusses building a stronger base to ensure success with the project. Talks about experience with gardening.
	33 A garden would instill community pride.
	34 Talks about receiving emails from Re-Imagining Cleveland keeping him informed even though he is not part of the grant anymore.
	35 Discusses keeping in contact with Re-Imagining Cleveland. (interview seemingly ends but starts up again immediately)
	36 Talks about the other community gardens in area, primarily vegetable gardens. Would like to coordinate the different gardens to grow different vegetables to increase productivity.
	37 End.
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