



To: City of Portland Mayor, City Commissioners, City staff

I am writing a letter in support of the collective efforts of residents in the Boise neighborhood wanting to create a community garden currently named The Boise Triangle on the south side of N Fargo Street and Kerby Ave. The activation of this currently underutilized space will greatly benefit the community, not just by providing much-needed greenspace in an increasingly hardscaped community, but also by allowing space for social cohesion, urban agriculture, and community empowerment as a community health benefit. A community garden can be a rewarding third place, a public place between work and home where the all sectors of the community can come to gather for a common goal.

In the 1990s this same plot of land was actually a community garden, seed-funded generously by the late Prince himself. Since there was not any water hookup on-site, however, it was difficult to direct proper irrigation to the area. Volunteers resorted to hauling water in buckets, which simply became “too much” in the hot summer months. Today, the lot sits, unkemptly overgrown with tall grass, without a trace of its past activity and donations.

Yet some neighbors would like to change that today. Going along the values of sustainability and social cohesion, this valuable greenspace has incredible potential to become a shared space that allows residents in present and upcoming development to work in the garden and, in return, be reimbursed with food that is grown. Following the model and partnership of Urban Farm Collective (UFC), the Boise Triangle will also begin adding garden beds year after year, as well as a shared tool shed and a possible dog park on the lot.

In order to see this come to pass, the Boise Triangle will need all the support and encouragement of policy incentives to do that. At the moment the Mayor has recommended that this site will be used as a Google Fiber installation site, although the ramifications of this are uncertain at the moment. Currently, the Boise-Eliot garden on Fremont is the only remaining public garden of the neighborhood, which soon too, may see its last days. Its model also has a long waitlist that impedes neighbors from participating.

Though our grassroots efforts are strong in the Boise neighborhood, we would like to gather the support of all city bureaus invested in the lot of land to see our garden grow. Would you consider helping make our neighborhood a more sustainable, green, and active community?

Sincerely,

Garner Moody, Chair