
Subject: Community Garden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 28, 2023 5:28 PM
To: 'Matthew Hudes' <[REDACTED]>; 'Mary Badame' <[REDACTED]>; 'Rob Rennie' <[REDACTED]>; 'Maria Ristow' <[REDACTED]>
Cc: 'Laurel Prevetti' <[REDACTED]>; 'Joanne Rodgers' <[REDACTED]>; 'Joe Rodgers' <[REDACTED]>; 'Lee Fagot' <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Community Garden

Dear Town Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern that the town is considering spending \$195,000 on a community garden. I want to be clear, I am not opposed to the idea of the town having a community garden, but not if it is from the town budget. We are in a deficit. Perhaps the people who want a community garden can seek private funding, hold a fund raiser, or seek grants to support their cause as a means to make it happen.

If the town has an extra \$195,000 to spend, I would suggest directing it towards safety projects that benefit the entire community. For example installing speed bumps for traffic calming, more speed limit signs, or installing flashing crosswalk signal lights. We have had several deaths on our community streets in the last few years and to me that seems safety should be more of a priority.

The other things to consider if the town spends money on a community garden are;

1. Having smaller gardens peppered throughout the community for all residents to enjoy, rather than having one on the far side of East Los Gatos, that isn't even centrally located.
2. How much will this cost in perpetuity to maintain and where will the continuous funding come from? Our town is already in a deficit.
3. How will vandalism and theft be addressed? The Cabana Club in the Belwood neighborhood at Belwood Gateway and Blossom Hill in Los Gatos always had problems with youth climbing the 6 foot fence to gain access and vandalizing the grounds. This is being built near a middle school and not far from a high school.

I urge the Town Council to have a robust discussion on what fiscal responsibility looks like and other ways it could spend \$195,000, rather than a community garden. We are in a deficit and that is not changing anytime soon.

"The problem with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money" (former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher)

Kind regards,
Lisa Harris

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