**ACTIVE GARDENING PILOT GUIDELINES**

Approved by Board 12/6/2016

**Background**

Site rule provision:

VII. ACTIVE GARDENING PILOT

Sunshine Community Gardens fulfills its purpose of providing “opportunities for the public to engage in organic gardening” only when its members actively garden their assigned plot(s) to produce vegetable and/or ornamental crops. Currently, it is possible to maintain a plot in compliance with site rules without actively gardening the plot, but doing so is not consistent with the purpose of Sunshine Community Gardens. To evaluate the effectiveness of amending the site rules to require active gardening of plots, the board shall pilot test requiring members to actively garden their plot(s) and a process for enforcing this requirement, up to and including termination of membership, for failure to actively garden plot(s). The term of the pilot period is defined as the Fall 2016, Spring 2017 and Fall 2017 seasons. For purposes of this pilot, active gardening is defined as consistently:

* Planting plot in vegetables and/or ornamentals.
* Maintaining plants after planting by watering, weeding, etc.
* Harvesting in a timely manner by picking vegetables when ripe, removing expired annuals and cutting, pruning, thinning or deadheading ornamentals, such as perennials and natives, as appropriate.
* Not leaving plot unplanted in vegetables or ornamentals for extended periods with the exception of letting soil rest; resting soil must be covered with leaves, compost, etc., or planted with a cover crop such as clover, buckwheat, Elbon rye or similar crop.

If a gardener has multiple plots, each plot must be actively gardened as defined above.

**Evidence Plot(s) Not Being Actively Gardened**

* The presence of any of the indicators plot(s) not being actively gardened:
  + Plot(s) not consistently planted in vegetables and/or ornamentals.
  + Plant(s) not consistently maintained after planting by watering, weeding, etc.
  + Plot(s) not consistently harvested in a timely manner by picking vegetables when ripe, removing expired annuals and cutting, pruning, thinning or deadheading ornamentals as appropriate.
  + Plot(s) consistently left unplanted in vegetables or ornamentals for extended periods with the exception of letting soil rest; resting soil must be covered with leaves, compost, etc., or planted with a cover crop such as clover, buckwheat, Elbon rye or similar crop.
* Producing no more vegetables and/or ornamentals on plot(s) than could be produced on fewer plots or on a smaller plot will be considered as an indication or warning sign plot(s) not being actively gardened.

**Enforcement Process**

* A zone coordinator or board member notifies president or vice president that believe plot(s) not being actively gardened
* The president and the zone coordinator shall evaluate plot(s) and if agree plot(s) not being actively gardened, they shall enter into a written agreement with the gardener as to how plot(s) will be gardened. The agreement shall include that plot(s) will be kept in compliance.
* If gardener fails to comply with agreement, the president should notify the board and board will impose an appropriate sanction which may include:
  + Warning
  + Changing terms of agreement
  + Reducing number of plots gardener assigned or assigning gardener to a smaller plot
  + Terminating membership