**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Sunshine Community Gardens**

**8/8/20**

Steve Uecker, the president, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Attendees: Steve Uecker, Kay McMurry, Carole Limaye, Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, (Marsha Riti joined the virtual meeting at 6:08.)

A quorum was present despite Doug Zullo’s absence.

**Treasurer’s Report: Carole Limaye (Discussion Item)**

We are $5000 ahead of budget this year. Some savings happened because of lock down, like not paying for in-person attendance at the garden conference. Water use was down this billing cycle despite the spike in August. Compost cost will be covered. The money will be used for future deliveries of compost or our onsite composting. Some concerns were raised with the $2.00 price increase. Payments are coming in, and we may exceed cost.

Marsha Riti joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:10 p.m.

**Plot Report, Kay McMurry: (Discussion Item)**

There are 166 people on the waitlist. More people are now willing/desirous of full plots.

The only vacant plot is Emri’s. The hope is to make it available sooner rather than later. The new gardener will clear it. It is a half plot. People are holding on to their plots. Low turnover. Billing in January is when we find out who is not working.

Jim Willmann reported there are only 2 plots in non-compliance currently. Plot maintenance has improved since Covid. State plots not coming as much.

**August Minutes: (Action Item)**

Steven Uecker moved to approve August’s regular minutes, as amended by Jim Willmann.

Carol Limaye seconded the motion.

August minutes with suggested amendments passed unanimously.

**Addressing Garden Issues without using Gardeners’ names: (Discussion Item)**

Steven addressed Carol’s suggestion that gardener’s names not be used in the subject line of emails. Jim said we can use the plot number to identify noncompliance issues. General consensus was to avoid using a personal name in the email subject line. Using the gardener’s name in the body of an email is okay.

**West Nile Case at the Garden, Steven Uecker: (Discussion Item)**

Steven reported a gardener contacting West Nile from mosquitos at the garden. He reported he will ask her to write about her personal experience for the Weeder to provide the information to the garden community.

**Nominating Committee, James Willmann: (Discussion Item)**

Jim expressed his concern and our need for action re. the nominating committee. Right now, the nominating committee consists of Polly and Janet and is one committee member short. The garden Bylaws do not address who replaces members on the nominating committee. We must have three members on the committee. The nominating committee should come up with a slate for a new nominating committee for the May election. We must take action in October. There are no provisions for how to create a nominating committee, and it is not right for the board to appoint a nominating committee.

Zoom quit at 6:45 pm

Returned at 6:50

Continued discussion of Nominating Committee:

Jim wondered if the lack of a full nominating committee was due to the circumstances of Covid-19. A board member asked if we want to address term limits and changes to the Bylaws, recognizing that this will take months to address and change Bylaws.

**Camera Update for Front Gate: (Action Item, revisited)**

In August, after the Board approved camera use for the front gate, Janet Adams expressed concern to a board member about her garden in and out movements being tracked. A board member pointed out that the camera’s purpose is for making sure the gate is locked, not for tracking gardeners. Doug reported to the board through email that he had emailed Janet to better address her specific concerns, but did not get a reply from her.

Jim Willmann moved to table the discussion until Doug is in attendance.

Steven Uecker seconded the motion.

All approved.

**Weather Station Update: (Discussion Item)**

James Willmann, per Doug Zullo’s email, reported the weather station is within budget and can be installed.

**Plant Sale, Steven Uecker: (Discussion Item)**

Steven reported that he and Marsha Riti have been looking at how other organizations and gardens are having sales. PEAS is having a garden sale. Their operation is a different size. They feel safe enough to hold a sale curbside. They have varietals for a fall plant sale, and box sets for people with an easy set up. They use paypal donations.

Marsha Riti looked into ecommerce turnkey sites. There is a template to build into. There are fees. Turnkey e-commerce/ Square account:

1. Through square mini site no fees, take 2.9% plus 30cents per transaction-- not that different from in person sales take, and we could have photos
2. Square online checkout, using own website, simple check out links --directly on the website (same cost)

Questions and thoughts from board members:

Would the store tell you when things sell out? How do we address, say, a variable amount of tomatoes? Substitutions can be problematic. Variable amount of supplies can be problematic. What happens when orders exceed the in-hand product?

Do we prepare for an online sale and then possibly switch to an in person sale? Online, at this point would be ambitious, and in-person is doubtful at this time. But it is pointed out we could control the front gate and entry to the sale. Lady Bird Wildflower Center is trying a sale by appointment, and we could monitor how that sale goes for them.

A reminder is stated that we are not a business and rely on volunteers, and it takes many volunteers to run the plant sale. There are numerous issues, like unloading trucks, the weather, delicate plants. And we need to involve the sale coordinator, Janet Adams. There are so many unknowns. We must revisit why we would have the sale. There is no financial incentive this year. If it’s a service to the public, we must evaluate the service and what ramifications it may have to the public, both positive and negative. Is it a service to the community to provide some plants to our garden members only?

Steven suggested we consider presales, curbside delivery, overflow, and consider the sale as a service to the community.

Zoom quit @7:30

Meeting was adjourned through email at 7:40 p.m.