

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors
Sunshine Community Gardens
10/13/20**

Steve Uecker, the president, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Attendees: Steve Uecker, Kay McMurry, Carole Limaye, Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, Marsha Riti, Doug Zullo, Charlotte Jernigan

A quorum was present.

1. Financial Report- Carol (Report Item) (Attachments)

Bottom Line: \$15 thousand ahead of budget, mostly because of no travel costs and our tool guy has been repairing tools economically. Might be some tool purchases in the future (some expenditures).

Charlotte Jernigan questioned if the education money not spent could be used for the Education Committee. It was noted that there has not been an update from the Garden Success Committee (aka Education Committee) because of the pandemic.

Carol continued that we could invest in another CD if we choose at the end of the year. The board should start thinking about budget and special projects. Usually they are based on the previous year's, but it will be difficult this year because of necessary plant sale changes.

2. Plot report- Kay (Report Item) (Attachment)

The attachment shows the distribution of desired plot sizes. We are as close to the maximum as we've ever been. Demand for quarter plots outstrips the supply. They are the least available. People are waiting close to a year or over for a plot. Currently there are only 2 open plots: one of which will be rented out Wednesday.

3. Approve minutes from September Board Minutes (Action Item)

Jim Willmann made a motion to approve the minutes.

Carol Limaye seconded.

Approved unanimously: September Minutes passed.

4. Dumpster- Charlotte Jernigan: discussion on dumpster signage and placement (Discussion Item) (Attachment)

Charlotte sent a proposal to Jim and Steve (3 mos ago) to ask for dumpster signage: proposed signage "Dumpster for SCG only, etc." The proposal sparked discussion. It's complicated to get agreement about how to keep it simple but still do something about it. See attachment for components. As things are, folks aren't sorting. Newer gardeners are confused and need better education. Option: get the dumpster emptied more often. Empty more often during the prime time (Sept-Oct, Mar-Apr). Pricing is better for 2xweek. What else do we need to know to get this addressed?

Discussion points:

- There is confusion where things go
- Strong opinions about temperature/what weeds can be composted
- Khaki weed easy to recognize and goes in the dumpster
- Bermuda is often infused with weed cloth (plastic)-- if not separated, it should go into the dumpster
- concern about bermuda and bindweed in compost. Too complicated for gardeners. Compost rules are complicated, so gardeners default to the dumpster.
- Plastic is a concern for the compost, also fruit labels are concerning. The labels are plastic. Could be clearer about composting.
- diseased plants are an issue, as well, for composting
- Moving dumpster could help
- Dumpster for organic vs. other stuff
- why is the dumpster not rotated anymore?

To make it a proposal: Find out what expert gardeners know is compostable. Do we have the dumpster in the right place? Redesign the refuse area in the corner? Should we have a compost corral? Closer to the dumpster? Signage: could we erect a clear sign --a stake in the ground?

Charlotte invited board members to email her with thoughts or questions about a solution.

Dumpster company has to be able to easily access the dumpster.

Steve will check about the ability to move the dumpster to the back compostable area. He pointed out it will be less ugly to move the dumpster from the garden entrance and easier to have everything in one place.

5. 1. Giving board authority to adopt policies providing for alternate remedies: Jim Willmann

Background:

The board had a preliminary discussion of the issue at its August meeting and directed VP to talk to Zone Coordinators for feedback. ZCs felt more discussion is needed before making a final recommendation to the board. Attached as additional background are 1) a summary of ZC discussion at the 9/22 meeting and 2) a document on alternate remedies provided ZCs as background for their meeting.

Requested Action:

Tentatively endorse the idea that a site rule explicitly addressing additional remedies is worth further exploration and authorize VP to explore further with ZCs.

Bylaws provide authority. Move some bylaws to the site rules. Continue to work with ZCs for a proposal to the board.

2. Clarification of Board's position on authority of Sunshine to correct violations relating to common paths and areas, e.g., correcting encroachment on common paths by cutting back a gardener's plants. (Action Item)

Background:

This issue came up in ZC discussion of alternate remedies and ZC asked for clarification of current policy.

Requested Action:

Articulate what is the board position on the issue.

Can Sunshine remove gardeners' overgrown plants? In common areas we should be able to pull plants in pathways. The bylaws say the board can remove. Board can take action. Need a policy to allow ZC to remove the infringement. Are there other remedies beyond removing non-compliant gardeners? The more eyes on the problem the better. For instance, if a plot is up for correcting encroachment: does it go to the board?

Motion: Zone Coordinator can remove infringements in common paths. Can take action alone or ask for another Zone Coordinator, Vice President, or board help.

Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Converting the first two regular service hours (currently \$30 penalty each if unworked) to hours that must be worked, i.e., cannot be paid for if not worked (Discussion item, future action item)

Background

It seems the current service hour system results in most needed tasks not being done and that requiring gardeners to work a specific number of hours on specifically directed task would be more productive. This would place greater emphasis on more significant and most needed tasks. Jim W. raised the issue with ZCs for their input. The ZCs thought the concept had merit and would like the board to pursue further. Attached as additional background are 1) summary of ZC discussion at 9/22 meeting and 2) the background provided ZCs.

Requested Action:

Acknowledge potential merit of concept and authorize VP to seek additional input from ZCs and others to determine if feasible and report to the board at November meeting.

There are several bylaws amendments which are relevant to these three issues

Membership dues shall be set by the Board and may consist of money and completion of service hours. [Art. 3(b) (Membership)]

Site Rules may provide for cleaning, including weeding and debris removal, of garden plots and common areas not properly maintained and for assessing the reasonable costs of the cleaning to the member. Failure to pay all costs assessed may result in loss of Membership. [Art 12(1) (Site Rules)]

A Member's failure to comply with Site Rules may result in loss of Membership. It shall be within the Board's sole discretion to determine if a Member is in

compliance with Site Rules and whether failure to comply shall result in loss of Membership. [Art 12(3) (Site Rules)]

See Attachments- sent by Jim on 10/7

1. Summary of ZC 9/22 meeting
2. Directed hours background sent to ZCs
3. Alternate remedies background

Jim is pulling the issue for a future revisitation.

6. Revisiting the Nominations Committee and how to address replacing the third member necessary for the committee: Jim Willmann (Action Item)

Jim recommended appointing a 3rd person to work with Polly and Janet to come up with a slate to run. How can we elect? Zoom call with membership? Who will get elected and how? Possibly use the chat bar section name and yay or nay.... Or say outloud. Voting in the chat section could be done. Solicit people (nominating committee) with a garden-wide zoom. Have an all gardeners' zoom meeting in the next month for creating a nominating committee. We need people who know the gardeners to be on the nominating committee. We need a nominating committee before March.

Kay made a motion to schedule a garden-wide zoom mtg. in mid November to elect a nominating committee.

Marsha Riti seconded

Motion passed with one abstention.

7. Plant Sale: Summary/ follow up to Monday 10/12 discussion: Steve Uecker (Discussion Item)

Survey- Waiting on questions- Sharon says she can do it. Deadline for questions: Friday at midnight.

8. Other updates- weather station & camera- (Action Item)

--The weather station is a go. There are decent options to purchase. Install will be ready at the end of the year.

--Camera:

Jim Willmann made a motion to proceed with evaluating options for a discovery surveillance camera and purchase a camera for security.

Marsha Riti seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. COVID CONDUCT-Kay McMurry (Action Item)

Kay expressed the desire to remind folks of maintaining behaviors to prevent the spread of disease. There is concern about people interacting without masks less than 6 ft. How should we remind them about following the rules? People are getting too close to each other.

Steve made a motion that he will write something for the Weeder or email.

Kay McMurry seconded

Motion Passed unanimously.

10. New topics:

1. Plot refunds for family of deceased: Kay McMurry (Action Item)

Kay proposed 100% of the plot fee go to estate or nearest kin. Wave fees for the secondary gardener to become the primary. This change can go into the accounting rules.

Carol Limaye seconded this motion.

The Motion passed unanimously.

2. Access to Cordless Mower and String Trimmers: Jim Willmann (Discussion item)

Cordless mower, string trimmers and blowers are in locked section of tool shed, and not all gardeners have the combination because don't want all gardeners to have access to all items stored in that section - rat poison, extra tools, molasses, specialized tools such as socket wrenches, supplies, etc. Moving the cordless mower and string trimmers is probably not an option because of the need for electric outlets for

charging batteries. Options if don't want to give all gardeners access to all items in locked section are:

- Move items we want to limit access to to the tractor shed--but available storage space in tractor shed is very limited, so probably not a good option.
- Provide the combination only to gardeners with need to have access, including gardeners who have been checked off to use cordless mower, trimmers, and other cordless tools.

(Note: See next item about check off and orientation of gardeners using.)

- Partition off portion of locked section for items that don't want all gardeners to have access to and secure with separate lock. This would be a very simple partition so probably feasible to do.

Initiation of process of checkoff and/or orientation of gardeners who use mowers and string trimmers.

Steve Camp (cordless tools coordinator) thinks it is a good idea and Jim thinks Ray Porter (gas tools coordinator) does too.

Combination could go to the folks who have an orientation.

Resolution: Jim will get with Steve and Ray re. Orientation. Steve Camp will give the combo if a gardener is oriented for usage of mowers and trimmers.

3. Chicken Coop – Ron Valentine: Jim Willmann (Action Item)

Ron Valentine has the small chicken coop on the west side of the larger chicken coop and the coop space is treated as half plot equivalent for which Ron pays a half plot fee. Kerry Howell and Bill Cason have asked Jim to address two issues relating to Ron:

- Putting a temporary moveable chicken cage (approximately 3'x6') with a couple of young chickens in the southwest corner of Sunshine. The chickens apparently feed off the grass and Ron moves the cage periodically to an area of new grass.
- Storing a chicken house (approximately 3'x3'x3') outside of his plot area and in an area by coop chick coop.

Jim Willmann: Ila and Jimmie Schneider support the request of Kerry and Bill. I asked Ron to remove the moveable chicken coop and to move the chicken house to his

space. Ron disagreed with the request, and I said he had an option of taking issue to board, and if he wanted to exercise this option, to contact Steve about the Tuesday zoom meeting. Ron does not have an email on file so communicating with him is more difficult.

I think allowing Ron to have a moveable coop will set a bad precedent and is analogous to letting a gardener use space in a common area as a temporary planting site.

He is willing to move moveable chicken coop at the end of the month. I (Jim Willmann) suggested we give him until October 31st, with the agreement to not bring it back unless he has specific board approval.

Motion: Give Ron Valentine until the 31st of October 2020, to move his coop, and garner agreement that he will not to bring new chicken coops into any common area of SCG without specific board approval.

Seconded by Kay McMurry.

Unanimously passed.

4. Bat and Owl House at Sunshine: Jim Willmann (Action Item & Discussion Item)

From Jim Willmann:

Jimmie Schneider requested I check with the board if it would be okay for him to put up a bat house. I am not sure I support it. I have some concern that bats carry rabies but that apparently is a very remote possibility. Just not sure that it's a good idea

Owl House- Steve proposal to control rats.

It was pointed out that rat poison around an owl house is not a good idea, also there is concern for the garden cat. The decision is made to postpone the owl house discussion.

Motion: Jimmie can install a bat house as he sees fit.

Motion is seconded by Steve.

One opposed. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Attachments:

Financial Reports (3)

Plot Report

Dumpster Policy Report

Zone Coordinator Meeting Summary