

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunshine Community Gardens

7/13/21

Attendees: Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, Debra Mariano, Steve Camp, Kay McMurry, Marsha Riti, Karl Arcuri

Convene

6:04p

Approval of Minutes

Kerry

June 8, 2021 Meeting

Approved.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Debra

Jim, Carol, and Debra did a lot of banking work this week. The Wells Fargo account had to be transferred because of new accounts. Eventually they had to close the account. The bank mixed personal accounts with garden accounts. We are now banking with Chase. This gives the garden a better deal on the CD. The savings are better, too. Another problem encountered this week is a discrepancy between title and checks written. This could pose a problem with cashing checks. Debra has made a call and is waiting to hear back. They were supposed to do mailing to the P.O. box, not the curb. But mail has gone to the curb box.

Plot Report (Shared Screen)

Kay

There were several withdrawals over the last month. Kay is in the process of filling plots. Many people are out of town. One plot was rented over the weekend. There has been an increase in withdrawals since May. March was the last time we had anyone leaving. I1-2sn is a plot that should be half plots. There are 210 on the WL (down one from last mo.) No available plots are in great condition. It's hard to get people into plots when it is hot and the plots are in disrepair. Board Member question: Should we cover some of these plots with leaves to wait until planting is in season? It is just taking longer to find people, but many are waiting for over a year for plots, so Kay will continue to work on filling the open plots.

Plot Compliance Report

Steve

Zone Coordinators should let non-compliance folks know and cc Steve Camp. Steve is willing to help clean plots if folks have issues keeping them from working their plot. It is tricky to do non compliance this time of year because of the heat. It is dangerous for some people to be out in the heat. We should be more lenient this time of year given the heat. There was a suggestion that the non-compliance letter sent to gardeners in non-compliance make suggestions about heat safety.

Gardeners who have health issues should let their ZCs know. Generally non-compliance letters don't go out immediately, giving a gardener a chance to communicate with his or her ZC. Termination is never immediate; there are always numerous emails, etc. What more can we do to facilitate communication between gardeners and their ZCs when plot maintenance is a problem? We hope gardeners will communicate asap with their ZCs if there are medical issues at play. Volunteers are ready to help tend plots for gardeners who need help, but we have to be alerted to the situation. It is helpful if ZCs can meet their gardeners so a personal relationship can be formed.

Ratification of Email Votes

Appoint of Karl Arcuri to fill the director vacancy.

Welcome to Karl who is replacing Doug on the board. Ratify the email vote.

Move to ratify the email vote. Seconded and passed.

Announcements

Jim

1. Please send Conflict of Interest form and Phone #s to Kerry to compile.
2. A gardener has requested the amount of proceeds we take in during the garden sale. We will share that our sale allows us to reduce our fees by 50%. The presentation is reportedly to another community garden group in Houston. It is noted that we do not have many expenses because of our volunteer effort.
3. Vines on the south fence line by the TSBVI parking lot are 10 feet into the fence. Proposal: President will notify the 3 plot gardeners that these need to be cleared in 7 days. If no action is made by the gardeners, the plots will be cleaned for them. The gardener with repeated overgrowth should receive a non-compliance letter if the overgrowth continues.
4. Business cards
Have we ever had business cards? Not in the past. Would Isabelle be willing to design business cards? Marsha will ask her.
5. Welcome sign: Jim's 19 yo granddaughter is a calligrapher. She is working on lettering a removable hanging sign. There was positive feedback from the board about this handlettered sign.
6. Purchases
Reminder: it is a judgment call about a purchase and whether or not it will exceed the budget. If a purchase is more than \$50, check with the treasurer or the president.
7. Jen/Jeff Plant Sale

A survey to members will go out in the next day or two. We will work to make clear this is not an order form. We will post info on the website.

Action/Discussion Items

Jim

Carol's information that adoption of expenditure items below will not affect the budget.

Purchases won't affect the bottom line for purchases. The budget is an expanding plan, not an authority on spending. The budget is a guideline. We have a detailed breakdown of the budget emailed to board members. The following purchases won't affect the bottom line because of savings from lower than expected waterbills.

1. Create kids garden (Budget: est \$700-\$800)

Requested Action: Approve

(Idea of creating a children's garden was put forward at the June meeting. Create an area of 3'x3' beds in the SW corner of Sunshine behind the chicken coop. Paths around and between 3'x3' beds would be wood chips. Start with 8-9 beds and add more as needed.)

Who will be in charge of the children's garden? Hopefully it would be easy to maintain the area. We would dig out the area with a tractor and bring in new garden dirt. 9 mos out of year people can garden back there. This budget doesn't include the new soil. Pathways would probably be 2 feet. Perhaps 3. Depends on the space back there. Who gets the plots? Is it a lottery system? We would need to discuss details after the build. Maybe half to children of gardeners of sunshine, half from outside. Is the ZC fine with doing this project? Doesn't automatically fall to ZC for outside projects like this.

Motion: Prepare to have a children's garden with the final children's garden proposal subject to final approval of the board.

Seconded. Passed.

2. Install speed bumps to reduce speeding in driveway and parking lot (Budget: est \$600-\$800)

Requested Action: Approve

(Gardeners not observing 3 mph speed limit at Sunshine was identified as problem at June meeting)

Speed bumps come in 6 ft. lengths. Pricing is quite varied. They should not affect gardeners pushing wheelbarrows. Plant sale trollies-- make a walk around? Bumps might be removable. More signage will likely be needed in any case. Put a sign closer to the entrance.

Motion: Proceed with signage and research the potential speed bump material and present at the August meeting.

Seconded. Passed.

3. Security camera on front gate (Budget: est \$200) (Kay)

Requested Action: Decide whether still want to install security camera

(The Board previously authorized a security camera to monitor if the front gate was open/closed, but it was never installed. We need to revisit if we still want to install and whether the purpose is to monitor the front gate closed/open, people coming/leaving Sunshine, or both.)

Installation ran into a problem with removing trees. In order to make sure the gate is closed and have a record of people who enter the garden, we will likely need to take out a tree. Shall we proceed? Steve will check in with Bill Cason in the event some research has been shared with him. **Consensus: Proceed with implementing prior board action.**

4. Install sun sail for trailer porch (Budget: est \$100)

Requested Action: Approve

(A sun sail would provide late afternoon shade to the trailer porch. The sun sail would be roughly 12'x8' or 16'x10' square sail attached to the west side of the porch roof and two 8' high poles set approximately 10' from the porch.)

Would it be a barrier to meetings? Attached with eye bolts, so it can be flexible to take down. Would it be a problem for the porch roof with tension with high wind? It would be attached to beams.

Motion: Purchase a sunsale to attach to the porch to make it more liveable in the summer months.

Seconded. Passed.

5. Purchase equipment to hold hybrid zoom board meeting equipment (Budget: Est \$900; Bd already approved \$1000 at 5/2021 meeting)

Requested Action: Reaffirm approval

(The intent is that board meetings would be in person, but guests could participate/attend via zoom. Equipment needed would be 24" all-in-one computer (est \$750) and a wireless microphone (est \$100))

This would be particularly for any gardener who would like to view and participate remotely. Committee reports could also be done this way. Is there inequity with in person vs. zoom? Concern that it is a waste of money was expressed. The computer investment couldn't be secured. One board member asked if we even have a problem that requires this expenditure. There is a desire to move to in person meetings. There was a discussion of ease of zoom for working parents. This purchase would be primarily for non-board members.

No board member makes a motion for this. Issue Dies.

6. Purchase additional electric mower (Budget: Est \$600-\$700) (Steve)

Requested Action: Approve

(We have had the Stihl cordless mower for approximately a year; it has held up, and gardeners appear to like to use it.)

There was an argument for making a purchase of a self-propelled mower for those who are slighter builds. However, there may be more repairs for self-propelled mowers. There is likely not a need for the self-propelled, as smaller gardeners have had no trouble operating the one that is not self-propelled.

Motion: Allow Steve Camp to purchase another electric mower with a budget of \$750; he can buy self-propelled or not self propelled--And weed whackers as needed.

Seconded. passed.

7. Trailer refrigerator (Budget: Repair???, Replace est \$200-\$300) (Kay)

Requested Action: ???

(Steve has talked to Vic and Vic is going to see if he can repair it. Vic estimates cost to replace at \$200-\$300. Cost of new refrigerator at Costco is \$900)

An ice maker would be more hygienic than currently used ice trays. A new ice maker would cost of about \$300. At that point, should a new fridge be purchased instead? The fridge used to have an icemaker, but it stopped working. First we are looking at repairing the one we have. It may not be worth the repair costs for this old fridge. Another ice machine is another option. Cooling people down quickly at this time of year is important. Should we ask Micah 6 about another fridge? The fridge is 12-13 years old. Let's talk to Micah 6.

Motion: Postpone a decision about ice maker or new fridge until August meeting or email vote after we get additional info from Micah 6 about whether they need additional fridge space, and dependent upon Vic's ability to repair the ice maker.

Seconded. passed.

8. Non-substantive reorganization/reformatting of current site rules to make more readable

Requested Action: Approve at this or August meeting so can be ratified at fall all-gardener meeting.

(This issue was looked at in March/April but delayed because there was not enough time to complete before the all-gardener meeting in May. The reorganization/reformatting has been slightly modified in the interim. The main question is whether the reorganization/reformatting sufficiently improves readability and useability of rules to justify the effort. The

reorganization/reformatting was shared with ZCs and two responded (Charlotte and Ila). Both expressed the opinion that reorganization/reformatting was a significant improvement to justify the effort. The following three documents have been previously provided:

1) Table comparing ToC of current and reorganized/reformatted rules

2) Reorganized/reformatted rules with only the most significant reworded identified

3) Reorganized/reformatted rules with all changes identified

It is suggested that best to review the documents in the order set out. The comparison table provides a quick way to see overall reorganization. The second sets out how reorganized/reformatted rules will be read. The third document identifies all changes made but is a bit difficult to get through.)

Motion: Perform non-substantive rewrite/reordering of rules to make it clearer to our members. Return in August with a formal draft.

Seconded. Passed.

9. Waste disposal violations

Requested Action: Decide if it is an issue which needs to be addressed and delay any action until Aug.

(There has been considerable emphasis on waste disposal at Sunshine including publicizing violations of waste disposal policy. The question has been raised of whether this emphasis may have become counterproductive. The board needs to discuss if the emphasis on waste disposal policy and violations of policy has become counterproductive and decide if the issue should be addressed in some manner. Any decisions on how to address are best delayed until the August meeting to allow input from interested gardeners including compost coordinators.)

There was some discussion about how to keep meetings shorter and timed and how to stay focused and stay on point. Slack was proposed as a discussion forum for board members. The discussion could occur ahead of time. There will be a timed agenda for the next meeting. We will adhere to the time.

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously, and we adjourned around 8:30 p.m.