

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

Sunshine Community Gardens

**8/10/21**

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

Announcements: There will be a compost purchase in the next couple of weeks. Jim visited with Aaron Mason, Director for Farm to Table Garden and TSBVI.

**Convene**

**6:01p**

**Approval of Minutes**

Kerry

July 2021 Meeting

**Minutes for July 2021 approved.**

### **Reports**

Financial

Plot Assignment

Plot Compliance

### **Reports**

**Treasurer's Report**

Debra & Carol

In July, Debra and Carol worked on straightening out the bank accounts. We are seeing a typically high July water bill. Compost will be the next big expense. There is a slight increase in office supply expenses due to paying for the new P.O. box and the new banking account.

**Plot Report (Shared Screen)**

Kay

There are 206 people on the Waitlist. The WL has gone down some. The demand is still high for quarter plots. About a year and a half wait time has been the norm. TSBVI employees jump to the front of the waitlist. Now open: 3 half plots, 1 quarter plot; these openings are due to folks moving.

**Plot Compliance Report**

Steve

Steve noted there are many non-compliant gardens at the moment. Bermuda is a problem in Zone 8; the newer the plot, the harder to keep the bermuda in check.

### **Ratification of Email Votes**

Change in budget for cordless mower and extra battery from \$750 to \$1000.

**Moved to ratify the email vote. Seconded and passed.**

## **Business**

### **Status of Previous Board Decisions**

#### **Speed limit signs**

The board revisited this issue from last month (see last month's meeting minutes). We will hold off on purchasing permanent signs, as the temporary signs have more novelty in being able to be moved around and (re)noticed. Kay and Marsha will monitor relocating the temporary signs as needed.

#### **Ice maker**

It has been fixed but still there is the question of a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> refrigerator for Micah 6. Micah 6 could use another fridge at times. Do we want a second one? Board members expressed a desire to save spending where possible, and also save electricity. Even though the Micah 6 fridge does overflow with produce at times, we can replace the old fridge quickly if needed.

**Motion: Do not buy a new fridge at this time.**

**Seconded. Passed.**

#### **Business cards**

Isabelle has created a design. There is a question if 'Community Garden Initiative of Central Texas' needs to be more prominent. Use of the card is for tax exempt purposes and provides more credibility to our organization. General board consensus was to make the initiative more prominent.

## **Children's Garden**

*(See Background Information)*

Kerry Howell, ZC in Zone 9, is okay with a Children's Garden in Zone 9. The plan is to work on creating the garden space in the fall. Perhaps \$10 for each plot? Concern was expressed about how to manage enrolling participants and how to monitor upkeep. It was suggested we discuss options with nearby schools. Should some plots be open for children and grandchildren of current members?

Kerry Drake will begin to discuss ideas for ratios of children from current members and outside child gardeners with other board members and mock up some potential guidelines. Marsha and Karl are board members with children and may answer some questions Kerry puts together.

## **Dividing plot in Zone 9**

*(See Background Information)*

Keep 1 ½ plots and rent out the southern half. Creates two new half plots.

**Motion to divide the plot. Passed.**

## **Shared Gardening of Plots (F3-4 & F3-5)**

*(See Background Information)*

The board agreed the gardeners should be reminded that the two plots cannot be subsumed into a single plot.

## **Purchasing fall plants to donate to schools**

Jen/Jeff have agreed to sell \$1 plants to Sunshine for schools. Last spring we gave away over 600 plants to schools. The board consensus was that 350 plants will be purchased this year.

## **2021 Budget Revisions (Debra/Carol)**

*(See Background Information)*

The revised budget was accepted.

## **Setting September All-Gardeners Meeting**

Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> -- Jim will work on setting a date.

## **Naming major paths throughout the garden after former gardeners**

Steve presented the idea of naming pathways after former gardeners as a way to bring gardeners together. Steve will discuss with long-time SCG members to compile names. He will consider ways to provide permanent honors. Further discussion postponed until the next meeting.

## **Fence Line Maintenance / Getting Priority Tasks Done (e.g., TSBVI garden)**

*(See Background Information)*

- a. Maintaining 5' strip along inside of entire fence line
    - i. Would include adjusting some plot borders and moving west side of Ron Valentine's chicken coop
  - b. TSBVI Replacing Fence
    - i. Gates for Sunshine
  - c. Mandatory Workday Service Hours Proposal (Information only)
  - d. Annual/September Report to TSBVI
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- a. We need to maintain a 5' strip along the inside of the entire fence line. Not sure how the fenceline became a west wall for RV's coop. Do we want to take on the 5' strip along the fenceline?
- Postponed until September. The deadline would be in the new season: Feb. 1.
- b. TSBVI is replacing the outside fence. Does SCG want to consider some gates? Would SCG participate in some of the cost? If a gate was

installed it would stay locked except for during the garden sale? Jim will discuss the potential options with TSBVI.

- c. The garden is in pretty bad shape. How can we get priority tasks done? Most gardeners don't feel a sense of community. Most people do work close to their own plot. How do we address this? Hire a lawn service? Require gardeners to work at least 2 hours/season? Work days provide community. Interaction is good, but workdays are not well-attended. Should we double the fees? Fewer things qualify for service hours now. Should we require a couple of hours: physical and non-physical tasks? Should we crowdsource the solution?

The board will take this next month to think about solutions and talk to other gardeners. We will re-address this issue in September. The garden needs to be maintained. Kay could write up articles about TSBVI expectations for SCG. Very few gardeners have seen the contract. This would help get the info out there and ask gardeners how to solve the issues. Gardeners need to know the requirements. Also suggested the information could go out through ZCs.

- d. September Report: Liscence agreement: Jim will draft it up and provide us with it.

### **Handling Concerns/Complaints (Marsha, Kay)**

The board discussed whether or not a formal motion should be presented as to how to handle gardeners' issues. In particular perhaps, a formula for board members: "express concern, assure the complainant you, as a board member, will work on addressing the issue, bring the issue to the board or inform the gardener about a policy already in place."

This issue speaks to a broader issue of what to do as (new) board members and the expectations for board members. Is the answer a tool kit for board members?

Karl suggested making a template for new board members in the form of a new board member packet. This would include board member expectations and processes for interactions with other gardeners. It would be common sense information, but it would be documented.

**Substitute Amendment: Karl will explore the content for an orientation manual for new members, to include identifying topics addressed in the manual.**

**The motion passes with one opposed.**

**Motion substitution passed.**

**Motion to adjourn. Adjourned at 8:14.**