

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunshine Community Gardens

9/14/21

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

Announcements: Compost buy in the next couple of weeks. Jim visited with Aaron Mason, Director for Farm to Table garden and TSBVI.

Convene

6:00p

Unless explicitly stated otherwise, any statement is reflective of an individual board member and not the opinion of the board as a whole.

Approval of Minutes

Kerry

August 2021 Meeting

Minutes for August 2021 approved.

Ratification of Email Votes

Increase the purchase of plants for schools from \$350 to \$500.

Passed.

Reports

Business Meeting

1. Quarter Plot Decisions

1) Iris Society Plot E3-2

Convert to 3 quarter plots or keep full plot

Kay spoke about the plot report (see attachment), Sept. 2021. She reported on the number of plots vacated last month and the reasons people left. She noted quarter plots are the most requested size.

Kay spoke to the iris plot being an ideal location for new plots. The plot is pristine and already laid out with 3 beds. Watering is available. Kay requested to suspend the moratorium and make this into 3 quarter plots. Zone 5 doesn't have many quarter plots. This could even the load of quarter plots across the garden. It was pointed out that the moratorium demand shouldn't be the sole criteria for exploring this. Concern about issues that arise with quarter plots was raised. Quarter plot gardeners tend to be less involved than half or full plot members. Increasing

quarter plots has significant involvement issues. There is more turn over in quarter plots. Turn over is not good. It was suggested that policy issues be reviewed first. Jim made a recommendation to start a new committee to look at this issue. It was noted that the wait for quarter plots is significantly higher.

2. Changing layout of 3 quarter plots in E1 area of Zone 1 to 4 quarter plots or 1 half plot and 2 quarter plots.

Convert to 2 plots in Zone 1? 2 half plots?

Motion: Convert E3-2 to 3 quarter plots with the edge shortened to 23 ft. In E1-5x 2, create half plots as they become vacant.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Service Hours Pilot to Assure Priority Tasks Get Done

Ideas for encouraging gardeners to work service hours were discussed. Some ideas were about making some work days mandatory and making priority tasks mandatory. It was noted that the TSBVI hour, which was mandatory, became a fee rather than a reason for termination if not worked. Discussion centered around creating incentives for workdays rather than mandates. There was recognition that we have diverse ages and abilities at the garden and that not everyone can do physical tasks. Even with waivers, some people may not ask for the waiver or for help. The idea to create task forces to attack difficult jobs was suggested. There was the question of how to enforce task force work. It was acknowledged that record keeping would have to be worked out. Would this create more work for the treasurer? The question of whether or not the board would be willing to terminate membership if some service hours were not worked was raised.

A board member expressed liking the shift to priority tasks instead of singling out the TSBVI hour. Also, there was some support expressed for termination of members who don't help with community tasks, as the site rules are clear about helping communally with the upkeep of the garden. This is not a plot rental, it's a community garden. Working service hours helps create community. When the work is not done by all gardeners, someone else has to do it. It was noted that our pool of workers for community work is diminishing. It was suggested that non physical tasks should make up a part of the priority tasks. Priority tasks don't have to be physical. We should be up front and clear with new gardeners about the expectations. There is a lot of leeway and we can ID priority tasks at all levels. What we have now isn't working in terms of community involvement.

There was enough support for a discussion of priority tasks at the All Gardeners Meeting.

Motion: Appoint a committee to look at quarter plot issues. Motion to appoint a committee (with at least one a quarter plot member).
Motion passed.

3. Non substantive Reformatting of Site Rules

Kelly Atkinson edited exhaustively the reformatting of the site rules. It can be ratified at the AGM if the board agrees. There was a question about Section B 2A1, secondary gardeners: secondary gardeners must sign a membership contract. A form is present for adding or subtracting. This is not a substantive change, so the **Motion to adopt site rules as reformatted subject to nonsubstntive edits by the end of the day Sunday was approved.**

4. Business Cards

Take down the mailbox. No opposition to the mailbox being taken down. We are going with generic cards for board members. Email Jim if you want an individualized card.

5. Revised Plot Map

Mike Reed is working on a conversion to google maps of the garden plots, allowing a hover-over cell: comments can be added about plot specifics. The board agreed to proceed with fully converting to this map. We must decide who will have access. Kay, Treasurer, Secretary-- maybe VP as well. We're not sure how many people can be interactive. We will likely need to minimize who can edit. It will be set up on the Sunshine website. A board member pointed out it should be on a Sunshine google doc instead of a personal database. Who owns it? We want to make sure Sunshine should have its own drive and have the document.

6. 9/25 All-Gardener Meeting Agenda

This will be done via email.

7. Tool Repair Costs

This will be done via email.

Misc.:

There was a question about a gardener taking a temporary leave of absence due to special circumstances and then going to the top of the WL when returning. There was a suggestion of renting a mic for AGM so that members can hear. The board discussed the upcoming AGM being via Zoom as Austin is still in Stage 5 during this time.

Motion to adjourn: 8 p.m. Motion passed.