

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunshine Community Gardens

12/7/21

Attendees: Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, Debra Mariano, Steve Camp, Kay McMurry, Karl Arcuri, Carol Limaye

Meeting called to order at 6:01p.m.

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

November Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

Reports

📅 Treasurer Report: Debra and Carol

The report for November has us with a bit of deficit, but not as bad as expected. About half the anticipated amount of deficit.

📅 Plot Coordinator Report : Kay

194 people on the waitlist. This is a slight decrease in the number of people waiting. Several plots are now available; Kay is working on getting them filled. Jimmy will work to clear one gardener's plot. A volunteer cleared another plot.

Action Items

1. Plant Sale Report

Jim will communicate with Janet and Randy and report to the board. Carol and Debra will be working on billing during the planning time, so they will be busy with that. There will be fewer plants available this year. Re. herbs: there will be less than the previous sale, but the plan is to have some and they will help with sales. Janet and Randy and Suzanne will help with the sale. In January we will look at the plants we might provide for public schools.

2. 2022 Budget

The budget is similar to last year. The plant sale will help, but there will still be a small loss. A board member expressed the desire to continue donations to appropriate groups; a

preference not to omit or reduce donations was made. There was a question about what contract services we use and the answer was that that is solely covering the dumpster service. The board tentatively voted on the proposed budget, and it will be finalized in late December or early January.

Motion to pass the proposed tentative budget was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

3. Identify Sponsored Charity(s) for 2022 Billing

In the past we have included an opportunity for members to contribute to charities via their billing invoices. It has helped raise money, approx. \$3,000 last year. We are trying to make contact with All Blind Children of Texas. The President and VP tried to make contact with the TSBVI liaison to find out who to contact for ABCT. Preference is to offer donations to just one entity. We plan to try to make donations to ABCT, but if a current contact can not be found, SCG will make donations to the Central Texas Food Bank.

4. All Gardeners Meeting

The AGM is set for next Tuesday, December 14, at 7 p.m. Email and WW will alert gardeners to this meeting. Topics to cover include plot and financial reports, the plant sale, service hours, TSBVI fence replacement, 2022 Budget, and the service hour pilot program if the board approves the pilot.

5. Ron Valentine Chicken Coop

The board considered two options for the chicken coop Ron Valentine has built up behind the community coop. One option was to consider whether or not his coop should be considered non-compliant in terms of non-chicken related items being stored on the site (i.e. air mattress and masonry tools.) Also, consideration was given to whether or not the board should develop compliance standards for his area. The second option considered was whether or not to treat this individual coop as a policy issue. The board considered whether to limit chicken operations at Sunshine to only the cooperative chicken coop activities.

Board members expressed concern that, as a community garden, we are not set up to provide space and conditions for many individual chicken operations. Members expressed the desire to provide Mr. Valentine a year (January of 2023) to find a new location for his chicken operation. A member stated that the individual coop should have never happened in the first place, as, for one, his coop is built along the TSBVI fence. Concern about TSBVI having a problem with this on the shared fence line was expressed. The garden is out of compliance being up on the fence line, as there is supposed to be a perimeter along the fence that is not worked or occupied. Another member expressed that it seemed generous to provide Mr. Valentine a year to relocate. Asking him to leave would be a correction of a past unsustainable decision to have a personal coop.

Most board members viewed this as a policy decision to ask Ron Valentine to cease chicken operations and limit operations to cooperative operations only. Ron will have one year notice and be asked to vacate by January 31, 2023.

**Motion: Chicken operations at Sunshine should be limited to the SCG cooperatively run coop. Ron Valentine's chicken operations will have to cease by January 31, 2023. The motion was seconded.
One opposed; five approved.
Motion Passed.**

6. F3-5 Plot: Active Gardening and Secondary Gardeners

The Zone Coordinator for this area has repeatedly expressed concerns that this plot is not being actively gardened by the primary, but instead by members of the secondary gardener's organization. It was suggested that the board give consideration to what it means to "actively garden" and if that should apply in strict terms to the primary. On the other hand, another member suggested this is a non-issue if the plot remains in compliance. One member suggested the board wait until the primary gardener expressed a desire to WD to consider options. Again, the board was asked to consider this as a policy issue about active gardening by the primary gardener. In the interest of moving forward with the meeting, this issue was dropped.

7. Service Hours Pilot

The board considered pilot programs to help engage gardeners in performing service hours that help sustain the garden. For the spring and fall 2022 seasons, the board considered ways to better achieve gardeners working all required hours, performing tasks with highest priority for the entire garden, and promoting the community involvement aspect of service hours. The pilot may include options such as awarding weighted hours for participating in organized workdays, requiring gardeners to work a certain number of hours on specific types of tasks, and adjusting fees assessed for unworked hours. The pilot may not include eliminating the option of paying for unworked hours. As part of the pilot, the Board may suspend or modify provisions set out in these site rules relating to service hours except the option of paying for unworked service hours. This provision expires March 1, 2023.

A member stated that if we feel that we are not getting high priority tasks done at the garden, we should consider a pilot incentive program by continuing to give bonus hours to increase engagement. Minimal changes would have to be made with this approach. Also it was suggested we rebrand the TSBVI service hour to the All Gardener Hour. The suggestion was to adopt a rule to conduct a pilot, but not do anything during the spring season except give the incentive hour. Then in the fall, if this approach is working, we would keep it the same. If it's not working we will change it. We would make sure workdays are addressing the priority tasks. People who are already exempt from service hours would continue to be exempt from these particular service hours.

Motion: Reconsider the motion passed in November relating to the service hour program and substitute the following motion:

Continue for the spring season incentivizing workdays that can be expanded to other events such as the plant sale (or things other than workdays as we see fit) to incentivize gardeners to participate in work days and keep tasks up to date for the smooth operations of SCG.

Seconded.

One opposed; Five approved.

Motion Passed.

8. Cookie Exchange/Celebration

The Board decided at the November meeting not to have a holiday event because of Covid. The question has come up if it is okay to hold a cookie exchange/celebration on the grounds of SCG. Consensus: the board prefers no Sunshine sponsored events on-site.

9. Air Conditioners In Trailer (Follow up from November meeting)

Vic told the president and VP that the ACs in the office and in the Micah 6 room do not need to be replaced and that he has a used unit he will donate to Sunshine to replace AC in the central area.

Vic will donate an AC to the main area. He mentioned that older model ACs work better than newer ones.

—A note to the secretary: exemptions for gardener service hours need to be updated prior to billing. They should be updated in December.

Motion to adjourn.

Adjourned at 7:12 p.m.