

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunshine Community Gardens

2/8/22

Attendees: Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, Debra Mariano, Kay McMurry, Carol Limaye, Karl Arcuri, Marsha Riti.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.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

December All-Gardener Meeting

January Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

–It was noted that Kerry should work on adding attachments with the minutes to the official copy in Evernote.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: Membership dues will show on the report when they come due. Our reminders always bring in more payments. Ultimately, collection does happen. Four new gardeners who haven't worked their hours have agreed to work with the plant sale.

Plot Report: 175 people on the waitlist. 3 quarter plots (Zone 10), 1 half plot, and 2 full plots. Kay is in the process of contacting folks on the WL. Quarter plots are still in the most demand. The average waiting time is holding steady. People have waited 580 days– a year and a half or a year and 7 months. Reasons for leaving: too busy, moving, neighbor issues, health issues, living too far away.

Discussion & Action Items

1. Questions/issues relating to billing

Out of Compliance bills: We will need to ask Steve about whether or not to send these bills. There are several gardeners who belatedly record their hours, and some continue to repeatedly email in their service hours after the deadline. The Board may consider adopting a flat penalty for late recording for the extra work it puts on approving and generating the bills.

2. Compost Pricing

No action required. There was a deficit for a recent load. The price of compost is going up. Organic compost is important and a service to our gardeners. As we calculate the total cost we should consider how compost donations to Micah 6 and the test plot are recorded. The garden might subsidize the cost because of use for Micah 6, etc. (Typically take about 2 yards— about 10% of the load.) We should try to keep the price the same and try to get the highest quality we can each time. Jim will pass along to Randy the preference for the highest quality compost even if we take a hit on the pricing right now. Eventually we might want to go with \$3/bucket.

3. Plant Sale

Do we need a donation of rapid tests for volunteers? Signage for the event might read: "Masking is strongly encouraged" because of the increase in Covid cases with Omicron. Janet has said masks will be available.

4. Security Update

We are working on scheduling the APD officer to speak with gardeners. Marsha will communicate with our new District Representative and work on a date for a presentation. The Board was in agreement that scheduling this talk after the Plant Sale makes sense.

5. Chicken Operations at Sunshine

Update on notifying Ron Valentine about eventual termination of his individual chicken operations: The certified mail that went out to the independent chicken keeper at SCG has reportedly not been delivered. A formal request has been made about the status of the certified letter. Mr. Valentine did receive the non-certified letter and sent in an affidavit swearing he had worked 3 of his 4 service hours. A certified letter will be resent. Steve and Jim will try to touch base with Mr. Valentine in person at the garden. There was Board consensus to waive his unworked hour fee and notify him of the waiver.

Jasmine Baker: the chicken cage continues to reside on her plot. There is a question about whether chickens should be allowed on an individual plot. Some members feel no chickens other than SCG coop chickens should be in the garden at any time. Pets must be secured, so some members feel if the chickens are secured and only there when the gardener is there, it is okay. Do we want to increase the pet rule beyond dogs?

The board will be voting on this decision next month. Jasmine will be invited to speak to the board next month prior to a vote.

6. TSBVI Replacing Fence Update

No new updates about the timeline. Seems like it will not happen before the Plant Sale. Do we need to remove dried plant material on the fence? We are still waiting for an answer about how clear the fence needs to be before its removal.

7. Low Spots on garden Roads and the Edges of the Parking Lot

There are concerns about water collecting in low spots, and the road by the chicken coop has deep ruts. Should we get gravel to fill in low spots? Road base may be needed. We could get a yard to fill in major places and then make a decision about how to treat low areas after the Plant Sale. Road base can be very dusty. The gravel there now was a gift to us, 6 cubic yards. Would mowing be a problem with gravel? Gravel can be a hazard. Gardens will get dusty. Pea gravel is more expensive than road base, but shouldn't pose a mowing hazard.

8. Rabbit Foot Studios and Ooni Pizza Ovens

Rabbit Foot Studios sent an email inquiring about a potential film shoot commercial for Ooni pizza ovens at the garden. The Board consensus was to gather more specifics about what this would entail, while stressing that as a non-profit, we cannot endorse or appear to endorse any commercial product. Kerry will ask for further details and share with the board any response.

Motion to adjourn 8:13 p.m.

Approved.