

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

Sunshine Community Gardens

**3/8/22**

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

**Meeting called to order at 6:02 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.***

## **I. Convene**

## **II. Approval of February Minutes**

Minutes approved unanimously.

## **III. Reports**

### **A. Treasurer**

Will be discussed under the plant sale discussion.

### **B. Plot Coordinator**

List has shrunk to 158 people, a decrease of 10% from last month. Pattern remains the same. Wait times remain the same for each sized plot.

## **IV. Discussion and Action Items**

### **1. Plant Sale**

#### **A. Financial/Sales Report**

We have 79% of the sales of 2020. Compost and passalongs clearly add to the income. We are doing better than projected. Costs may not be as low as previous years. We won't know until we get the Gabriel Valley bill. It could come as late as May. We received many positive remarks on the square comments. Money is still being collected from the drop box and paypal. Post sale is about \$1300. Compost sold out quickly. Do we need more compost next year? It is a money maker. We got 1000 bags this year.

### **2. Possible adjustment to budget**

#### **B. Plants for Schools and Other Groups**

We have 2700 plants left: 1900 tomatoes, 250 herbs, and 500 peppers. Jim has talked with PEAS, and they would like 200 plants. ACC agriculture has expressed an interest in left over plants; They would take around 100 plants. We will probably have about 1000 plants to give to schools. Options: open up before Saturday? The freeze may be a

problem. Should we leave retail for a few more days? One member expressed an interest in opening the plants to the schools now, before the predicted freeze this weekend and Spring Break. Schools need to fill out the donation slips; the general public needs to pay. AISD does have a contact person who works with the schools with gardens. Emails will be sent to previous schools who took plants last year. PEAS will be notified to pick theirs up first. Question about how many plants for TSBVI. ACC can pick up 100 plants anytime.

**C. Possible Donation to All Blind Children of Texas**

1. We have finally made contact with ABCofT but some research needs to be done before we make a final decision about donating.

There is a new director in charge, so the communication has taken a while to get going again. Question about how much we give in a donation... should we give a percentage? One member would like to consider giving less than our usual \$5000 since we do not know the final number of our sale yet. Another expressed a desire to remain conservative in our giving.

**3. 2022 Billing Report**

**A. Overview**

\$15,000.00 in dues, \$3,000.00 unworked service hours

**B. Membership Termination for Nonpayment**

We must send letters via email and by the US postal service when we send notice of termination. Non payment will result in termination. Jim will send the termination letter.

**C. Review of How Well Not Billing Noncompliant Gardeners Worked**

The general idea is working well, but we need to make the process easier for the treasurers. Not renewing noncompliant plots is a good idea, but we need to make sure the non-billing and non-compliance letters work in a concise way. For instance, we might say: "You're not receiving a bill because your plot is not in compliance." Dec 15th could be the compliance review date, and we should put it on the calendar. For ease, the letter should have gone out at the same time as the bills (the "your'e not billed bc of nc.") Should we let members know we will be reviewing plots? Most should know the plots are being reviewed generally. Plot compliance has to be in effect late Dec, early Jan.

**D. Late Payment Fee**

This was generally discussed at the February meeting. It would require a change to the site rules. The consideration is to apply a penalty to late payments. The board is comfortable with imposing a fee for late payment or for not recording hours in a timely manner. Amounts can be decided at the next meeting.

#### **4. Compost Sales Pricing**

##### **A. Final Profit/Loss from the 3 Loads**

We get about 85% accounted for. Deficit is about \$800. Should we raise the price from \$2 to \$3? If we raised it to \$3, it would be a minor subsidy. Not everybody pays for it. We need to raise the price to break even. We can eliminate volume discounts. We agree we should break even— except that we are also using compost for special projects: Micah 6, tomato test plot. Calculating cost and profit, do we want to take into account the amount that goes into SCG special projects? The analysis does take into account the special projects. We want to break even on what the gardeners are using, not the whole amount used for numerous projects. Two options: \$2/bucket or \$3/bucket or Two sizes of buckets. Square buckets are about 80% the size of the round buckets. We could go down to the smaller buckets. Or is the answer is to go to \$3? Alternate the cost? \$2 then \$3. We generally use more compost in the fall than in the spring. Suggestion to use the bottomless buckets. Feb and Aug are compost months. We agree to remove the volume discounts. Compost used for Sunshine will not be calculated into gardeners' cost. It was discussed to alternate the pricing from \$3 to \$2 as needed.

##### **B. Decision on process/timeline to resolve pricing issue in time for fall compost sales**

May want to have preliminary of guidelines for setting price such as:

1. No discount for volume purchases
2. Purchase only highest quality compost
3. Price set in whole dollars to eliminate dealing with change
4. Sunshine should cover the costs for the community use of compost for Micah 6, TSBVI Garden, Tomato Test Plot, Sunshine Flower Beds, etc.

#### **5. Gardener Bringing Chickens To Plot**

The Board has discussed generally. One member has expressed support for permitting, another is comfortable with being treated as “pet on a leash,” and one has reservations because of the precedent it sets. An email was sent to the gardener asking if she wanted to continue bringing chickens to Sunshine. Her response was not a direct answer, but probably the most logical reading is that she does want to continue to bring chickens to the garden. This means the board will need to make a decision. The gardener has been asked if she wants to visit with the board either at the March or April board meeting. (Attachment: Email thread with Jasmine)

##### **Suggested Action:**

Take (without any further discussion) a straw vote of who supports permitting Jasmine to bring chickens as long as she is present. If a majority supports this, permit the gardener to bring chickens as long as she is present. If a majority does not support, postpone any discussion/action until April unless the gardener decides to visit with the board at the March meeting. This will give the gardener an opportunity to visit with the board before additional discussion occurs and any possible adverse decision made.

A board member has spoken with her about not leaving the chickens unattended for any reason. She agreed she should not do that. She has found another place for her chickens. She doesn't plan to bring the chickens out any more. Chickens can be on leash or in a cage as long as the gardener is there. We will delay this until April in order to see if she has further input.

## **6. Safety and Security At Sunshine**

### **A. APD Presentation**

Marsha has been unable to get a response from APD. Correspondence dropped off. Steve will look at some other options.

### **B. Locking Front Gate**

There is a new gardener who lives nearby who is apparently willing to check to see if the gate is locked at night. Recommended that we waive the service hours for that work commitment. There was agreement for this.

## **7. Sunshine Waste Disposal Contractor**

Steve has had conversations with the company which provided the portable toilets at the plant sale. He believes it may provide Sunshine a dumpster at a better price than the current vendor. \$119/mo; one pick up a week. A much better deal than what we are currently paying which is \$400/mo. The board authorized Steve to work with Carol and Debra to make the appropriate decision to proceed with a change if the pricing is better.

## **8. Sunshine Sewer Line**

Johnny Rooter found an apparent problem in the sewer line. (Attachment: Janet Adam's email regarding what Johnny Rooter found.)

## **9. 2022 Elections**

Secretary and 3 directors up for election  
No action needed

## **10. Fence Replacement Update**

No additional information from TSBVI about date work will be done.

Briefly mentioned:

Gate camera; in exploration stage.

Children's garden update– need to develop an action plan.

An Executive Meeting will be needed for issues that arose at the plant sale. We will schedule an executive meeting in a couple of weeks.

The Plant Sale was a success. Janet and Randy suggested a volunteer appreciation night. We would also like to recognize Janet and Randy for their hard work.

**V. Adjourn :** Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.