

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunshine Community Gardens

6/28/22

New board member orientation from 6:00-6:30 with optional attendance for board members other than president, treasurer, and assistant treasurer.

Attendees: Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, Debra Mariano, Kay McMurry, Carol Limaye, Iris Slevin, Juan Pedro Maestre, (Steve Camp joined @ 7:54)

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

A. Meeting called to order at 6:50.

B. Approval of Minutes

May Board Minutes

–should include expenditure pre approval attachment incorporated into the financial policies

May All-Gardener Annual Meeting Minutes

–add that Brian from TSBVI said we could have “as many badges as we want”

May Minutes Passed with suggested amendments.

Executive Session May 24

–will approve July 12th

C. Reports

Treasurer’s Report: Carol

There is a little money to be collected for service hours in July. We are about \$2,000 ahead due to the plant sale. We continue to be in good shape. Some money will have to be moved around because of other expected expenses. Profit and loss for May are in good shape.

There was a question about the payment to Whittlesey, and it was answered that this was for crushed granite for use with the new gate and the rest for garden use as needed. Hose hangers will go under special projects. Every year we replace the ones falling. We have about (40-50 water stations put in w/ cedar posts). Robert Jarry is replacing them with metal posts, and at this point about half of them have been

replaced. When they are all metal the life span will be longer. The cost is about \$150 per station.

Plot Report: Kay

We have three full plots available (2 are pending). There are two half plots, and one quarter plot. Kay requested help cleaning plots. Some plots are so overgrown that a new gardener would likely be overwhelmed when attempting to clear. There are 180 people on the waitlist. This is down 14 people from last month. There is a full plot in Zone 2 that needs clearing. Iris is willing to help with plot clearing. Kay will email the plot # to Iris. Kay mentioned she could put something in the WW about helping with plot clearing. Iris offered to work with the new gardener on clearing the plot. JP offered to help this weekend. It was pointed out that as a board we need to figure out how to get things done and not just rely on board members to do it.

Plot Compliance Issues / Workday Participation (Only if needed): Steve

Steve was not yet present for the meeting.

D. Ratification of Email Votes

Waste Management Contract – Change to one-year contract for 2-yd dumpster.
Passed.

E. Discussion and Action Items

1. Mid-Year Budget Review and Possible Revisions: Debra/Carol

We received \$5,600 extra from plant sales. For the budget, we want to make sure we have enough for the water bill. We want to be ready for extreme drought. We are working to have a reduced cost with Waste Management and pest management. The Children's garden is funded from other sources, so we can increase our budget for special projects. Note that in Dec/Jan we will be asking for special projects. If you see a major improvement needed, suggest it to the board in December for the following year. We should have some surplus to add to the reserves. But the pest control issue needs to be discussed further. We need to know more because it's not yet official and needs to be further explored. (This is regarding the effectiveness of orange oil and molasses on fire ant mounds.)

2. Audit Committee Appointment

The Audit Committee is a standing committee required by the bylaws, but one has not been appointed for several years. The following members responded to the request for volunteers for the audit committee:

Susan Waller – has a background in banking (potential chair)

Ila Falvey - has background with IRS

Beth Rumancik - is a CPA

We may want to have Kerry, in the role of secretary, serve as board liaison so we will have a board member familiar with the board process. Debra or Carol cannot serve this role because of possible conflict. There was consensus for Kerry to serve as liaison for this committee.

3. Dumpster Status and Waste Disposal Policy: Debra/Carol/Steve

Sunshine currently has a 4-yd dumpster with weekly pickup at a cost of \$530/mo. We recently changed the policy, effective 5/24/22, to not dispose of plant materials in a dumpster, but rather use a roll-off dumpster on an as-needed basis at a cost of \$400 for the 40-yd roll-off. This new policy practically eliminated trash disposed of in the dumpster, and we have switched to a 2-yd dumpster, with pickup every two weeks at a cost of \$115/mo. A roll-off dumpster was ordered for 6/24, and when the plant waste collected since 5/24 was loaded into the dumpster, approximately 40% of the dumpster was filled. This suggests we may not need a roll-off dumpster but once every 2-3 months when we have significant plant material waste –and less frequently at other times of year. If so, we may need to order a roll-off dumpster only 3-4 times a year at a cost of \$1200-\$1600 a year. This would make our total yearly cost for waste disposal around \$2500-\$3000 a year compared to current \$6000.

We need to update waste disposal policies to reflect changes in where plant waste is disposed of.

The new system is working well. Gardeners are using the dumpster appropriately and the compost area appropriately. Loading the tractor bucket was a bit difficult with larger uncut items, so a designated area for things like okra, sunflowers, and tree branches will be implemented. We can keep the dumpster for up to two weeks.

4. New Fence and Gate

a. Gate hours to give TSBVI

It appears the gate being unlocked from 6:00am – 9:00pm would work for most of the year. Question of whether we would want to set from 7:00am – 8:00pm for a period from roughly mid-October through mid-February when days are shorter.

Board members agree it does make sense to adjust the hours of the gate seasonally to accommodate the changing light. DST does make it problematic. Perhaps the gate time change could happen in conjunction with DST. The board agreed to start with 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. time for the front gate being open, with a potential change during DST.

b. Who should get cards for afterhours access

After hours access (when the gate is closed) is via a card issued by TSBVI. Based on emails, there appears to be a difference of opinion of whether cards should be issued on a more limited “who needs one” basis or more broadly on “who wants one” basis. We should probably try to reach agreement on which is the preferred approach and then we can identify and get any needed additional information before making a final decision at the July 12 meeting.

One member feels anyone who wants a card should have one. Another board member asked if we are okay with 250 people having cards. Do we need to have the card reprogrammed each time it goes to a new person? Would there be a payment for a lost card? How are the cards tracked? Is it tracked that the card is being used? How is the data audited? Does the card operate the vehicle gate or the pedestrian gate? One member pointed out that upon becoming a member of Sunshine, the 24 hour access was highlighted and appreciated. Another member pointed out that Austin has changed drastically in 20 years and that gardening in the dark is not always the safest choice. One member suggested we should consider the safety of gardeners and keep cards only for those who request & need cards. Concern for a fall or accident occurring for a gardener gardening when the gate is closed was expressed.

Perhaps there are 20-30 people who will surely get cards. Beyond the core group that needs cards, do we want to go tight or broad with card giving? Should members apply for a card? It is a big responsibility to track and secure data with cards. It's a complex topic. Movements in and out of the garden will be tracked. Gardeners will likely need to sign acknowledgement and agree to having their data tracked. It seems like we won't have access to the tracking, but TSBVI will. Issues identified: Limited number of essential card bearers, then look at who else may want a card. Have a safety system for gardeners who garden and for their potential accidents. Who will aid them? What should we do to ensure safety and security? We should simplify as much as we can so our relationship with TSBVI is not jeopardized. The board needs to come up with a plan and then inquire with our liaison from TSBVI about questions we have to implement our agreed upon plan.

Agreements Needed:

- A group of people will get cards: who will they be? Plumber, Maintenance? ZCs?
- Criteria for additional groups of people.

JP can make a shared doc. We will work on a living doc that JP has created. Everyone should respond by next Wednesday the 6th. Anyone can email Jim with questions for Brian. Maybe he can be on a Zoom or phone call in the future if needed.

5. Pricing for Fall Compost Sale

Although it probably will not be ordered until late August or September, the board may want to address compost since we need to make signs, etc. The issue was addressed by the board at the February and March meetings. The following is a summary from March minutes of guidelines board felt should be used in setting price:

- 1) No discount for volume purchases
- 2) Purchase only highest quality compost
- 3) Pricing in whole dollars to eliminate dealing with change
- 4) SCG covers costs of compost used for SCG, e.g., Micah 6, tomato test plot, trailer gardens, etc. At the February meeting board estimated this normally amount to 10% of the load

Debra and Carol recently raised the issue of whether they should discontinue accepting IOUs since it requires additional work and not always paid.

Based on above guidelines, the price can be calculated as follows:

Formula (Based on 10% of costs covered by SCG for SCG uses)
34 buckets per yd x 90% = 30.6 buckets or 30 buckets per yd
Cost of compost x 90% = Cost of compost including compost, delivery, tip
Cost per Bucket – Cost of Compost / (30 buckets x # yds purchased)

Example:

Super Rooster Compost \$52.95/yd (Whittlesey 6/20/2022)
\$53yd x 18 yds= (\$954 + \$175 Delivery + \$20 tip) = \$1150/load
\$1150 x 90% = \$1035 for gardeners' portion
30 buckets/yd x 1 = 540 buckets/load
\$1035 cost / 540 buckets = \$1.92/bucket or \$2/bucket no volume discount

Motion for the fall sale not having IOUs. Motion seconded.

Discussion: how are IOUs reconciled? More money or less money? Answer: It won't have a big impact.

We could have preemptive information in the WW to let people know the compost is coming.

Passed: no IOU for the fall.

6. Fall Plant Sale For Sunshine Gardeners

At the all-gardener annual meeting, gardeners expressed an interest in the board exploring having a fall plant sale for Sunshine gardeners similar to Fall 2021. Jim has contacted Jeff Monks and Jen Woertz (Squeaky Frog Farm), who did a sale last year, to ask if they were interested.

Consensus to proceed.

7. Executive Session

At 8:22 p.m. the board went into Executive Session; Executive Session adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Jim will send pertinent background materials to JP and Iris from previous executive sessions.

Motion to adjourn at 8:50. Seconded and Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.