

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunshine Community Gardens

11/8/22

Attendees: Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, Debra Mariano, Carol Limaye, Juan Pedro Maestre, Kay McMurry, Iris Slevin, Karl Acuri

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

Meeting called to order at 6:07

Plant Sale Report (Karl)

About 50 people have replied to the T-shirt survey request; an order can be placed. Port o' Potties (Honeybucket) and tents (Centex) have been reserved. Planters for succulents and passalongs are being explored and conversations with the herb propagators are taking place. In January the compost sales team will start working with Whittlesey. Entertainment is still being looked at: McCallum band has been contacted. Karl and Marsha met with the treasurers to discuss budget and goals.

Approval of Minutes (Kerry)

October BOD Meeting Minutes
Minutes approved

Routine Reports Treasurer (Debra)

Carol's financial report for October and the Chase Bank statements were previously sent. We are over-budget because of high water bills. Hopefully the high bills will now be going away with some cooler temperatures and some rain. We are basically okay. In terms of the asphalt for the front drive, we could call it an asset- with it lasting a minimum 20 years. We could allocate the cost over 10 years. It will be looked at and considered. We are over-budget on the waterbill; everything else is pretty close to what was anticipated.

Plot Coordinator (Kay)

WL and vacant plots

Number of people on the WL: 141, net change of 2 people fewer

Plots being vacated : 1 half plot

Unchanged waitlist; wait times haven't changed but half plot times have gone up a couple of days.

Plot Compliance (Jim)

Zone 1 is having some compliance issues (at least 3 plots). Next month there will be an ID of noncompliant plots. A membership can't be renewed until the plot is in compliance. Steve will ask the ZCs to do a walk through to ID plots not in compliance. The formal process of non-compliance letters going out happens after the informal process between the ZC and the gardener. Then two ZCs have to agree that a plot is still out of compliance.

Action Items

1. Possible Modifications to New Gardener Rule

The choices are the following:

- a. Make the rule and practice consistent by either changing the rule or the practice.
- b. Making changes to the rule to improve it
 - i. Require TSBVI hour to be worked in the first 30 days
 - ii. Eliminate requirement of working 2nd service hour within 60 days
 - iii. Create a true 30-day probationary period (there would need to be evaluation that the first 30-day requirements were met)

Discussion:

Why would we want new gardeners to complete the TSBVI hour within the first 30 days? The TSBVI hour also fulfills the community aspect of the hour and could help new gardeners feel a part of the community and recognize the community aspect of Sunshine. Our practice is inconsistent with the rule. We could change the rule so a new gardener can count plot clearing toward regular hours if the plot is really messy, but how do we determine what is "really messy"? Should we get a second opinion? This could be done like we do with noncompliance issues and two ZCs agreeing on the noncompliance. We want to

keep the policies straightforward. It is only one season that a new gardener can get SH credit for clearing their new ("really messy") plot. Currently we do not waive the TSBVI hour. A new gardener should have to work one true service hour so that they do not work all their hours on their own plot. There are issues with the current rule. It was argued that working their own plot was still being a part of the garden. However, it was pointed out that it's important for any new gardener to see the totality of the garden (TSBVI service hour) as being a part of the larger community and the service to other spaces/people beyond one's own plot. We extend ourselves to the larger community.

First, do we want to change the rule so that we can count all service hours for a messy plot? Consensus is yes.

Do we want to allow regular plot cleaning hours to count for the TSBVI hour? Consensus is not to change this hour. Do we want to say a second service hour has to be worked within the first 60 days?

What about the gardener who joins late in the season... is there some way to permit late joiners to get the same number of SH? Can the plot coordinator determine the SH requirement for late join? Rules don't allow carrying hours over to next season. Jim will draft language for this.

For the first 30 days, does someone who has all their hours prorated need to work the TSBVI hour? It's a balance, finding the enrichment of the campus with an individual's plot maintenance. The TSBVI hour is what makes the garden a part of a larger community.

Should the New Gardener rule have a true probationary period? ZC and VP could determine if requirements are met. Not all ZC enforce the 30 day new member rule, however. It would be helpful to have the VP join the ZC. Would a probationary period make a gardener conscious of the community service hours? It is supposed to be an auto termination. Would we be more efficient as a garden if the service hours were better highlighted in importance? New members have 30 days to clear and plant, and they receive a follow up email with a "guide for new gardeners." It is a one page document for new gardeners. Board members were happy that such a document exists and is sent out, and requested to see an electronic copy of the document. Kay emailed the doc to board members.

A process document on compliance and termination was suggested. The document could provide a checklist for new members. The process document

would be helpful for all: new gardeners and future board members.

Jim will draft some rule changes that permit service hours to count for clearing messy plots, and that the TSBVI hour will have to be worked in the first 30 days of membership. The draft will include wording that addresses new members who join late in the season and that clarifies termination is automatic for unworked service hours.

2. Addressing Spamming/Phishing Emails

Jim has talked with garden alum and past president, Jeff Monks. Jeff thinks it would take 5-6 hours to work with Sharon on the website to secure our listed email names from being harvested. The board recognized the benefits of having someone familiar with the garden working on this task and felt paying a fee to secure the information would be well worth it.

Motion: In order to address spamming and phishing with web-listed emails, retain Jeff Monks for up to \$500, as billable at \$50/hour.

Motion passed. Unanimous.

3. December AG Quarterly Meeting/Party

Do we want to combine a holiday party with the All Gardener meeting? Possible dates in December: 3, 10, 17. Jim will confer with Ila about the availability of cooked BBQ. The board will need to meet prior to the AGM.

4. Moringa Trees

We now have 4 Moringa trees growing in the garden. Trees are not permitted under our current rules. We will allow gardeners to keep them for the harvest until they die back this winter, and ask that they not be planted again in the new season. These trees are quick growing.

Decision: Members can ask for a waiver if they would like to grow a Moringa tree on their plot, and it will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

5. Greenhouse on a plot

A gardener posed an over-wintering request to have a greenhouse on his/her plot. Board consensus was to get more information: i.e. the dimensions and maybe a picture. It was agreed that structures such as this would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

6. Raised Bed Area - Adding a raised bed to the existing area

Squaring off the octagon-shaped east border would permit adding an additional bed. This would mean 4 beds. The eastmost bed would be moved to add a new bed.

The cost for cedar boards and dirt is in the \$400-\$500 range. That's the biggest disadvantage. Do we want to do this in our current fiscal situation? In terms of wheelchair accessibility, it would improve access. Jim will figure out the specifics of the costs. Jim will report a budget for this project. Consensus seemed in favor of proceeding.

Optional Reports:

1. Asphalt at the Front Gate (Steve)

The ground crew is expected to come out Nov. 14th. It will not disrupt garden traffic. Preliminary work installing asphalt is scheduled for the 16th, or as soon as the machine arrives. Then the asphalt will be put down. The pullover was not in the original bid. We can spend about \$400 to make the pull-off paved. Paved would clarify for drivers what the pullover is for. The bush will have to be maintained/trimmed.

Motion: Spend the money to make the pull-off area paved.

Amendment: Spend up to an additional \$500 to put asphalt over the pull out

area.

Motion passed.

2. Adopt-a-Fence project (Jim)

A request was put to board members to consider heading up/coordinating the adopt-a-fence project. Information about this will also go to the Weekly Weeder.

3. Mentoring at an elementary school (Iris)

Iris is volunteering at an elementary school, working with a gardening spark club. The school has a nice fenced garden area with tub soil. The group of kids is enthusiastic. She hopes some spring plants can be made available to this group. She is also hoping to find a partner to volunteer and mentor with her. It was suggested Iris write to the Weekly Weeder to let gardeners know about the project.

Motion to adjourn 8:18.

Adjourned.