

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

Sunshine Community Gardens

**1/10/23**

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

***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 6:05**

**Plant Sale Report (Marsha and Karl)**

**Marsha:**

This month: the herbs are growing well and were transplanted this weekend. T-shirt sales are going well. Those who pre ordered have been contacted. Susan P. reported to Marsha that things are going well. Irina is working on signs for the plant sale. Thanks to Kristin, social media is highlighting plant sale prep. There was a question about whether more small tents would be needed, and it was revealed that the garden has maybe 8 or so available. Jim will confirm the number. Vendors will be approached. Phillip from Gabriel Valley has seeded peppers, and more will be seeded in Feb. A visit to GVF will happen and pictures posted to boost info about the sale. There is a slight (5 cent) increase in the cost from GVF. Marsha pointed out that the succulents that were in dino pots (that a volunteer made) did very well last year. Polly P. is in charge of compost and reported it is a bit too early to know about the cost increase from Whittlesy.

Karl is working on the Silent Auction. Some things that have come through or are in the works are: beehive tour, Austin Classical Guitar concert tickets; pizza gift cards, etc. A request for donations will go out in the Weekly Weeder. Garden members have provided the bulk of auction items in the past, about 70%. Karl will also inquire with local garden shops. Karl will prepare the Sign Up Genius slots to go out soon.

Tents arrive Feb 27th; plant shipment March 1 and March 2.  
Compost on the 2nd; port-a-potty; March 3rd.

Things are looking good.

AGM scheduled Feb. 4 at 10 a.m. The primary focus will be for highlighting ways to help with the plant sale. Marsha and Karl will speak.

Hopefully a board member will take care of refreshments...

Karl and Marsha are thanked for their time and energy and sign off the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes (Kerry)**

Approval of November Minutes.

One member opposed the "waive" terminology in terms of gardeners who count their hours by clearing their plot. A correction will be made.

Minutes approved with that correction.

### **2023 Billing (Debra and Carol)**

We have new withdrawals and new members; Carol is prepping invoices; if templates look okay to all board members, Carol will start downloading the invoices in preparation for sending Jan. 15th.

Zone Coordinators Ila and Kerry Howell did a walk through for non compliance. 11 gardeners got an email about their non compliance. 2 people had health or illness issues and will receive medical waivers. Zone Coordinators can let us know when non compliant plots are back in compliance.

Question about non-compliance in terms of the freeze: were gardeners non compliant because of dead plants from the freeze? No, plots in non compliance had clearly not been actively gardened in some time. The non compliance process could be improved with Zone Coordinators and timelines.

**The board went into Executive Session until 6:37 p.m.**

## **Non-billing of noncompliant plots**

Should the board adopt a site rule that states that plots non compliant will not be billed until they are compliant? This would help encourage compliance. The timeline for reviewing compliance could be refined. It was suggested the compliance review should happen in November in order to give gardeners a chance to come into compliance prior to billing. This discussion will be brought back for the Feb. board mtg.

## **Budget**

Rain and the success of the plant sale are the two major determinants for the budget. The budget can be adjusted in a mid year review in June. Usually by mid year we can see how the year is going to go. Carol stated that we base the budget on what we know now, but we will know more in June. Cash reserves should be twice the expenditures. Cash flow is on target; there are sufficient reserves with some left over.

### ***Motion: Proposal to approve the budget.***

One abstention. All others for approving the budget.

### **Motion to approve the budget passed.**

The treasurers will revisit the reserves in the next few months. Upcoming things to be considered are trailer repairs and our liscence agreement with TSBVI. It was noted that getting rid of the trailer would be very expensive, should it ever come to that. We should identify in our financial policy what the reserves should be.

There was a priliminary discussion about a **dues increase**. We haven't had a dues increase in 5-7 years, and the budget is pretty tight. We have 158 full plot equivalents and a \$10 increase would be a helpful budgetary gain. Some increase seems reasonable to some members. One member is concerned about financial issues passed on to incoming gardeners. A point was made about keeping a balanced budget. An unbalanced budget is also a troublesome issue for gardeners. In order to keep the budget healthy we might have financial aid

for members who may need extra help. We will be discussing this further in future meetings.

## **New Gardener Rules**

One member expressed concern about the wording of when and how soon new gardeners are to meet with their Zone Coordinator. Some board members felt the meeting with the Zone Coordinator within the first two weeks of joining was important to the success and understanding of the new gardener. Another issue raised was whether or not new gardeners can carry over hours.

*Motion: Approve the language of the amendment to the New Gardener Rules.*

**4 to 1 the motion passes.**

## **Trailer and Tool Shed Closing Time**

The trailer and tool shed have been found to be unlocked overnight often lately. It was suggested that we change to locking the shed and trailer at sunset rather than relying on the last gardener to leave to do it. It is better to have it locked at sunset. Steve can publicize this in his column.

## **Expansion of Raised Bed Area**

Several full plots are available now. Should we proceed with expanding the raised bed area? This would be a good time to offer moving to another plot to those gardeners in the raised bed area. The plots coming available are well-kept plots.

One member suggested we turn a full plot into a quarter plot, as there is a bigger need for quarter plots. Yet the value for accessible plots was mentioned at a previous board meeting. One thing, because of a busy spring (children's

garden installation, etc.), raised beds would not happen immediately. Jim will speak with the gardener in the area about potentially moving to a different plot.

It was noted that some upgrades are needed to the information on the website. There is information that is outdated. Board members should jot down things that they notice need updating on the website.

**Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.