

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunshine Community Gardens

4/18/23

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

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 6:01

Approval of March Minutes: Kerry

Approval of Executive Minutes

Both approved.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Annual meeting date and type of meeting

a. The date of Saturday, May 13th, at 10:00 a.m. was set for the AGM.

In the meeting we will recognize plant sale volunteers. We will also have the elections, discuss the front gate status, the past year at the garden, and the financial report will be delivered. The check to ABCTX will be presented to their representative. Board members should let Jim know if there are other topics for the AGM agenda.

Iris will get the drinks and cups, and Jim will order tacos from taco shack. There was a request for gluten free tortillas. It was noted that the trailer coffee maker is not working. Jim will check at Costco for a 20 cup coffee maker.

2. ABCTX Donation

The board decided the amount SCG as an entity will donate to ABCTX. Previously we have given \$5,000.00/ year. Garden members donated \$3000.00 this year during billing, so the board decided to donate \$2000.00 from the organization to make it a total of \$5000.00 this year.

Motion: We donate \$2,000.00 as an organization to ABCTX.

Seconded.
Passed unanimously.

3. Site Rule Amendment - New Gardener Rule

The draft rule was reworded. An attachment with background and proposed wording was provided. The language relating to carrying over hours to the second season was confusing to people and has been deleted.

Gardeners should record hours in the same season they worked. New language about a waiver by the board was added. There was a grace period change, and a note of service hours needing to be worked in the first 30 days. The desire to see ZCs have more interface with new gardeners was expressed.

Motion: Accept New Gardener Site Rule Amendments.
Seconded.
Passed unanimously.

The rule will become effective immediately.

4. Site Rule Amendment – Reviewing plots for compliance and active gardening as part of annual billing. Documents for background and proposed wording were provided.

People who have done the walk-through suggested some changes in the language. As a part of the billing process, plots are reviewed for compliance. Gardeners are not able to renew until compliance issues are dealt with.

There was a question & discussion about the date of the walk through, as the weather around Jan 10th is a difficult time to have compliance.

It was pointed out that the first letters to gardeners are gentle inquiries. Since this is a process, this can be taken into account. This process allows for a once a year viewing of all the gardens. It was suggested we do October or Nov. for a walkthrough. It was noted that the end of year walkthrough ensures the gardener's intentions and helps hold the garden to common standards. What if the walkthrough was at the beginning of November as an early identification method for non-compliance? Tying it to billing is timely with renewal. Renewal is a softer way for gardeners to realize they don't want to renew. It is preventative, too, since folks can't just "buy out." Some expressed the opinion that the first walkthrough should happen no later than Dec. 1.

Motion: Adopt the alternate wording of the motion and give the gardener

two compliance notices.

Seconded and Passed.

Effective upon ratification of the membership. This will go out to members.

Should this go on the webpage ?

It will go on the AGM agenda, and all action items will go out in the WW prior to the meeting.

5. Front Gate

TSBVI is not supportive of SCG's request to operate the gate as a stand alone automated gate, so the question to be decided was whether to proceed with installing a manual gate at a cost of about \$2900.00. TSBVI suggested a manual gate. TSBVI doesn't want us to assume use of their materials.

The bid from Viking fence is \$2940, this would add one four inch post on the right side as you drive out and use the existing pole on the other side. It would be a 13 ft gate (as expressed as desired by TSBVI), consisting of 6x8 ft. panels. Rollers on the ends of the gate will help make it easier to roll. There will be a locking mechanism for a padlock. A board member asked if we should pay for an additional post instead of using the existing post put in by TSBVI.

Motion: Build a manual fence subject to getting additional information about the cost of the second post.

Seconded.

Passed unanimously.

There was some discussion about the pedestrian gate. Should we lock the ped gate permanently since it will be partially obstructed by the gate? A battery operated light was suggested to help with seeing the padlock.

6. Adopt a Fence Status

Attachment provided showing panels adopted (approximately 30 of 80 panels have been adopted). Recommendation: Maintain unadopted panels vegetation free, which would include weed whacking.

A board member wondered if we had given enough time for the adopt a fence program to work. Non-adopted panels have native vines growing already, but there is concern about keeping the fence clear of hackberries. A clean fence is easier to maintain.

It was suggested we republicize the adopt a fence program in the WW and via email, and then proceed with the maintenance of keeping unadopted panels vine free, which would include weed whacking.

Motion: Panels not adopted along the fenceline will be maintained clear (except the panels masking the compost area), including weed wacking if necessary. This practice will not be implemented until after the annual meeting and after more opportunity for adopting fence panels is given.

Seconded.

Passed.

Reports

1. Treasurer report: Debra

Plant sale, financial report: This is the end of our gathering money time and we are moving into the spending money time (except for service hours paid in July). Right now we are ahead because of the plant sale and member dues.

There was a question about the t-shirts, whether we made money or lost money with t-shirt sales. It was reported we made a little bit of money. We made about \$500 on t-shirts. This did not affect the bottom line. We ordered fewer plants this year. Expenses were slightly higher, so we made a little less than last year.

There was a reminder about the problems that might arise by having a sole vender for our plants, and it was suggested that the new board should give this consideration.

2. Plot report: Kay

122 people are on the waitlist. This is up 5 from last month. Five plots are ready to be reassigned. ½ and ¼ plots are awaiting assignment.

3. Children's Garden: Kerry

We have a Zone Coordinator for the Children's Garden, Pam Kirby, and some of the committee met to draft the contract for the children. Jim is amending the current contract for sponsors and parents of the children. We will publicize in the WW that gardeners can sponsor a child, and Pam will begin contacting sponsors who previously requested to sponsor a child. We hope to have our first young gardeners sign their contract this coming weekend.

4. Raised bed expansion: Jim

Raised beds should be ready in June for August planting. Work to dig it out and put down plastic is underway. We may have to relocate water stations, but it should be ready for fall planting.

5. Plant donations to public schools: Jim

Donations to schools went well: 1100 plants, 500 to PEAS and Sprouting. PEAS works directly with the schools; Sprouting focuses on the teachers teaching gardening. We purchased 600 plants, which allowed us to purchase plants appropriate for schools—cherry tomatoes and fast growing vegetables. Doing this, we were able to get the variety we wanted as opposed to what's left over.

6. Database Committee: Iris

There has been a delay in being able to get together because of scheduling. Bill and Kristen are the most responsive. Data management— a source not tied to a member of the garden. Using a data management platform.

Online voting: for AGM.

Adjourn
8 p.m.