

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

Sunshine Community Gardens

**5/9/23**

Attendees: Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, Carol Limaye, Steve Camp, 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 6:04**

Approval of April Minutes: Kerry –*Minutes Approved*

#### Discussion/Action Items

##### 1. Annual meeting: Finalizing Agenda and Making Any Needed Adjustments

Consideration was given to postponing the AGM due to the forecasted rain event and potential flooding throughout the week's end. Board members present felt we would have more people attend if the meeting were not held on a rainy, potentially flood-prone day (and less potential of tacos going to waste).

*Board Members agreed to postpone the All Gardener meeting to May 20th.*

##### 2. Front Gate Update and Site Rule Amendment Reflecting Current Situation (Attachment)

The site rules were amended last fall to reflect installation of an automated front gate. Automation has not occurred, and the site rules need to reflect the current status. This is most easily accomplished by deleting two paragraphs relating to the automated gate. The proposed amendment is attached.

The amendment also adds language encouraging gardeners to lock the trailer and tool shed if they are in the garden after sundown even if other gardeners are still present. The purpose is to help ensure it gets locked each evening. Since all gardeners have the combination, any gardeners present will be able to open them if needed.

*All board members present agreed with the language change, deleting the automatic gate information and adding language to lock the tool shed and trailer after sundown. The changes were officially adopted.*

3. Vines on Fence / Adopt-A-Fence Panel program. (Attachments)

Review of panels adopted and unadopted panels. Attached are diagrams showing the latest status and a list of gardeners adopting a fence panel and number of panels adopted.

*Given the postponement of the AGM, the board decided to wait until after the AGM on May 20th to do any clearing so that the message could be verbally expressed to members present at the meeting.*

4. Decision on waste disposal vendor

We have notified WM that we are not renewing our contract, and we need to finalize a new vendor. Dabra, Carol, Steve, and Jim recommend contracting with WastePlace to have Central Texas Refuse to collect trash other than Sunshine-generated plant waste.

We will have to notify WMS of a new vendor. Jim will review the WMS contract before we give them notification.

*Board Members voted to sign a new contract with WastePlace.*

5. Expanding types of reserve fund accounts Sunshine maintains

Sunshine currently has a single reserve fund. Debra, Carol, and Jim believe it would be desirable to have three types of reserve funds –Operating, Capital Improvement, and one relating to special opportunities/projects.

Board members discussed the need to anticipate the cost of making repair costs to the trailer or tool shed (due to weather related damage) or potentially some day having to remove the trailer if we were asked to vacate TSBVI land. Bringing operating reserves more in line with general accounting practices for nonprofits, it was recommended we have at least a year's operating cost in the Operating Reserve, and the board decided the Operating Reserve would have a little over two years of budgeted expenses.

*Board members approved expanding reserves to three separate accounts: Operating, Capital Improvement, and Opportunity. It was noted that all reserve funds are directed by the Board.*

6. Timed discussion of policy issues surrounding creating more half/quarter plots or changing ratio of full to half to quarter plots. (Attachment)

The issue of increasing the number of quarter and half plots or changing the ratio of quarter to half to full plots comes up from time to time. There are significant policy implications to this issue, and this will be the focus of the discussion. No action will be taken.

Sunshine currently has a moratorium on creating new plots. This includes not dividing any plots.

The long WL for quarter plots has been noted. Another factor to consider is how the wait times for any sized plot compares. The wait times are basically even. There is more turn over in quarter plots than full and half plots. It was noted that high turnover is not desirable in terms of creating community, since we are volunteer driven. It was expressed that quarter plot gardeners do not seem as engaged as the full and half plot gardeners. It was noted that generally fewer and fewer people are willing to give volunteer time.

Changing the ratio of plots and increasing quarter plots is cause for concern for some board members because of the lesser involvement of quarter plot gardeners in Sunshine activities. It was expressed that the current ratio of plots seems like a pretty good ratio in terms of workability and sustainability of Sunshine.

There was some discussion about the potential to add two or three new plots along sunshine drive and the fence.

7. Use of "organic gardening" terminology in describing Sunshine.

It was noted that we should use extra care in how we describe Sunshine, as we are not officially designated as organic. Stating that we encourage organic practices is more accurate and truthful wording. Attention to our descriptions about being organic will be carefully reviewed on our social media platforms. Special attention should be paid to how we describe the plants we sell.

8. Possible zone coordinator question.

An informal discussion took place about how to proceed if Zone Coordinators go out of compliance with their plots. Board members highlighted and discussed how important a role Zone Coordinators play in the running of the garden and their support of the community as a whole.

Adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

