

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Sunshine Community Gardens

7/13/23

Attendees: Carol Limaye, Iris Slevin, Marsha Riti, Kerry Drake, Kay McMurry

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 p.m.

Battery Storage (Marsha Riti)

In a conversation and refresher tutorial with Steve Camp, Marsha came to learn that the battery for the Stihl electric lawn mower has twice gone bad. Marsha noted that these batteries are expensive and taxing on the environment (while also noting there are environmental problems with gas mowers, as well). Yet, many gas mowers could have been bought for the cost of the replacement batteries for the Stihl.

The batteries may be going bad because they are in the hot shed (in the locked section). It is certainly not an ideal temperature for the life of the battery. Marsha proposed we keep the batteries in the red room, where it is cooler than the outdoor shed. Steve will check if the electricity needed to charge the battery will throw a breaker or not.

Concern was expressed about the room not being locked and the batteries getting stolen. It was suggested we find a locked chest or create a wire cage (for air flow) with a lock to house the mowers. It was pointed out that it is easy to snip wire on a cage.

Another concern is that lithium ion batteries may spark when charging, and that could be a possible issue for keeping them in the trailer, as no one wants a fire hazard. Marsha said she would contact the supplier to see if it is a safety hazard to charge these batteries inside a house or trailer. Iris suggested that we adjust the location of the batteries seasonally. While it's hot, they reside where it is cooler, in the red room in the trailer, and go back to their regular place when it is not so hot.

There was a question about the cost of the batteries. It seemed from a retrieved email from Steve that the batteries were \$200-\$300. It was also questioned if it was one battery replaced for a second time within the year or separate batteries, as each mower has two batteries. Was it a new battery that had to be replaced the second time?

It was pointed out that the charger, alternator, or voltage regulator could also cause

problems for the charging, rather than it being the battery itself. A financial and ecological analysis was suggested, with the life of the battery being important in this analysis.

Since the current storage is a problem, splitting where it is stored could be a good solution.

Motion: Marsha proceeds within this month of July with the discussion with Steve about charging batteries in the trailer during the hot months. Updates will happen for board members via email.

The Motion was seconded and approved.

Approval of Minutes from the AG Meeting (Kerry Drake)

The Minutes were approved with a correction of the cost of BlueHost being \$300-\$400 every 36 months instead of every 6 months.

Reports of Plot Assignment (Kay McMurry)

The waitlist has gone down slightly. 3 plots have been reassigned. 2 plots are waiting for reassignment. 5 plots vacated: one move and 4 non-compliance. Desired plot sizes are still heavy for quarter plots, but the average wait times are going down. There is a gardener in Zone 10 with half plot about to leave, and a Zone 1 half plot, leaving July 31. (Carol stated there are 38 bills to go out, and we often see withdrawals after these go out.) In the last 7 days there have been no non compliance letters sent. Iris reported that Marsha has been working with gardeners who have some health needs in order to help people who are in situations that need extra time to come into compliance.

Financial Report (Carol Limaye)

We are still in the black. Surprisingly the water bill has not been as high as we expected. We may take in another \$1000 next month because of Service Hour payments. It is possible we will go into the red next month. It will be a rough year, but we will be okay. It was noted that the Children's Garden has over \$6,500 left. The committee may want to consider additional shade and seating. There is an additional \$5,000 for the raised beds, and some money was spent in June that hasn't yet been paid out. The front gate was paid for as a special project. Also of note, the check to All Blind Children of Texas has not yet been cashed, so that will come out of our funds, as well.

Current Projects in Progress- Review of attached spreadsheet with Q&A (Iris Bachman)

Iris informed the board that Susan Griswald, a photographer and videographer with Texas Parks and Wildlife has been interested in the garden and has been about taking photos.

A brief run through of Projects and Committees was reviewed. Some of the projects/committees briefly discussed were:

Supporting Zone Coordinators: Iris expressed the desire to implement a smoother rhythm for notification of non compliance. She will be bringing ideas to the board next month.

Pocket Prairie Implementation: Marsha showed Matthew's beautifully illustrated plan, and noted he is still working out the budget. Marsha suggested he plan in conjunction with Carol. The donation money, \$2,500.00, is the budget. It was suggested that a signed copy of Matthew's illustrated plan be displayed in the trailer.

Squeaky Frog Farm Fall plant sale: Marsha informed the board that Jim Willmann is working with Squeaky Frog Farm re the fall plant sale for garden members.

Children's Garden: Iris asked how to best support the CG leadership. A desire to understand what is going on with the CG and share its successful implementation was expressed. Kerry offered to provide an update from the committee at the August board meeting.

Chicken Coop: The tree that fell on the coop cost \$294 in clean up fees. There was discussion about separation of garden funds from the coop expenses. Given that the tree from the garden fell on the coop, the garden should incur the cost. The parts of the coop directly damaged by the tree (the roofing on the two end pieces) will also be the responsibility of the garden. Iris also noted that the Annual Fees for the Chicken Coop relative to the square footage it consumes may not be in line with garden plot fees. (i.e.: The charge is for 2 plots, but the coop only measures 35x35 – a plot and half–). It was noted there are other costs associated with the coop, though, such as water and rat poison.

The Motion for the meeting to end was seconded and approved at 8:28 p.m.