

**Sunshine Community Gardens
All Gardeners Meeting
December 14, 2021
Via Zoom**

Meeting Beginning and Welcome at 7 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Jim Willmann, Kerry Drake, Debra Mariano, Steve Camp, Kay McMurry, Marsha Riti, Carol Limaye

33 Garden Members attended via Zoom

When a quorum of gardeners signed on to the meeting, President Jim Willmann welcomed gardeners and introduced board members.

Reports and Announcements

Financial Report: Debra Mariano & Carol Limaye

Financial Statement
2022 Proposed Budget

In November a link was sent to gardeners with the financial report. We are doing better than expected. We are running at a deficit, about 10 thousand, but the budget was forecasted to be at a 17 thousand deficit. We have enough cash to get through the year. We do not expect any more drawdowns from savings. Educational expenses and special project expenses were down. Budget: We had an austerity budget last year and this year again. We conservatively hope to have a 10 thousand dollar net profit from the plant sale. Weather is a factor in the riskiness. We have a mid-year review with new board members where we will look at the anticipated profit from plant sale, water budget, etc.

Question from the floor: Does anyone know if the rental payment method is going to change or not? May I pay now before I forget? Thanks.

Gardeners have dues and assigned plots rather than "rentals." Billing will go out Jan 15, and gardeners will be getting an email with their invoice. You can pay ahead, but may want to wait for the bill.

Sponsored Charity: We want to offer this option again of providing an easy link for gardeners to contribute to a sponsored charity. We are trying to verify that All Blind Children of Texas is still active. This or the Central Texas Food Bank will be our sponsored charity.

Question from the floor: Next year if there is still a deficit: would you appeal to gardeners to make up the deficit?

Jim Willmann: Our reserves are a luxury. We would look at a small dues increase as a possibility to make up any deficit. The plant sale makes up 50% of our income. We might look at a one time assessment to recoup the deficit.

Plant Sale Report: Janet & Randy

Janet reported that though our sale will be smaller than usual, it is still bigger than most any other plant sale. We have on order 847 flats from Gabriel Valley (200 less than usual) of tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and tomatillos. Herb seeding will be happening Dec 18th. We will have compost to sell. The sale will look different in order for us to be safe during COVID. This is the garden's only fundraiser. We will have no vendors this year, no silent auction, and no marching band. We will have the same sized tents with fewer plants, fewer herbs, fewer peppers. Emails will come out for volunteer sign ups. Contact Janet Adams if you are ready to help. Suzanne Bradford is working on seeding the herbs. She has a team and she could use more folks to help with herbs. Polly and Ray are doing compost. Now is a good time to start your pass-alongs. Pass alongs are home plants that you provide for the garden to sell, say when you are dividing plants at home. Neighborhood people will drop off plants for us to sell, as well. Pots and dirt are supplied. Wait until the sale date to bring your pass-alongs to the garden.

Question from the floor: What are the prices for 4" plants? Are there price increases?

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Prices will remain \$2. Pass-alongs priced as seen fit. Herbs \$2.

The plant sale is scheduled for March 5, 2022: 9-2 p.m. Volunteers from the garden can shop Friday night. It is always the first Saturday of March. Janet will email Sharon (webmistress) to put the sale information on our website. Isabelle might help with graphics. Variety lists will be available soon.

Plot Report: Kay McMurry (shared screen graph)

There are 192 people on the WL, down 10 people from last month. It has been difficult to fill plots over the holidays. Plots will be rented by the end of the week, though Desired Plot sizes: high demand for ¼ plots.

Before the pandemic we were having more turnover. The wait time is just over 1 ½ years. There have been less people dropping out and more demand to have plots.

TSBVI Replacing Perimeter Fence: Jim

TSBVI is replacing the entire fence around campus. It will be 8 ft high, black coated chain link. They have had unauthorized people on the campus, so they will put in a more sophisticated coding system. Jim and Steve Camp met with a liaison from TSBVI who said the fence will be worked on in March. The contractor is TDC. We will get cuttings from the rose bushes, so they won't be lost. We will leave rose bushes until the very end. We have to clean the vegetation off the current fence. If you need more hours for this year: clear the fence of the vines. You can use the weed eater to take out the main vines and then return to remove the roots. Need hours? Getting vines off of the fence counts for TSBVI.

Service Hours: Jim

We encourage folks to complete their service hours. If you don't work your service hours it could be a hefty bill, as the seasons have been combined. Please check your virtual greenbinder hours and make sure they are accurate.

The board has decided to incentivize workdays: 1.5 hours for each hour work. This is a good way to take care of high priority tasks and a good way to meet each other. Most gardeners enjoy workdays and getting to meet other gardeners. The Board may use the incentivized credit for some special tasks. We want to incentivize important work instead of using a negative penalty approach. Most people are working around their own plots, but we are trying to encourage tasks that serve the whole garden instead of just the immediate individual garden space.

2022 Hours: Jim

We will return to our regular service hour schedule in 2022. This means we separate spring and fall seasons with billing in January 2022 and July 2022. We are using a pilot program to provide extra credit for participating in organized workdays and some possible specialized tasks.

Open Discussion

New gardener question from the floor: I have a fire ant problem: how do I take care of that?

Gail Reese in charge of the fire ant drench of orange oil and molasses. The instructions are with the mix near the washing station outside of the tool shed. This mixture will kill plants. Orange oil might make the ants move, so check for a new location in your bed. Organic options for fire ants are hard to come by. Two cups to five gallons seems to kill them, according to one gardener; pouring slowly seemed to help, also. Each cup costs \$2. Brite Ideas at Rutland and Burnet gives a substantial discount on gardening supplies to Sunshine members.

Question from the floor: Will there be another workday before the end of year?

Since there is not enough time to organize a workday, ask your Zone Coordinator or a board member for a task. The next organized workday won't happen until January.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.