

Oak Park Community Garden General Meeting

Date: January 15, 2026

Time: 7:05 pm

Location: Mae Boyar Park

Attended by: Ravynn Mc Call(C1), Joann Fritzen(C2,D1, D2), Madelyne Green(E3), Steven Kozel(H2, I 2), Andrew Howe(B5), Christopher Adib (E8) , Julie Cristiano(E7), Bob Kielling(E6), Bill Colangelo(B1, B2), Jeff Hoyt(B6, B7), Diane Colangelo(B1, B2), Jeff Vidrinskas(G3), Lakshmi Arun(C9), Naga Harini Kodey(D4, B4), Sandhya Krishnamurthy(A3,C5), Alison Batten(G2, G8), Lekshmi Shailesh(A2), Andy Mikaelion, Ryan Mikaelion(F4)

Agenda

Bill asked for a motion to approve Minutes of Meeting from October 16, 2025. Madelyne so moved and Joann seconded it.

Treasurer (Fiscal report)

- Checking account (verbal status)
- Savings (including security deposits – verbal status)
- Rent to receive as of 01-15-2026 (verbal status)
- Trash collection expense to increase from \$163 to \$169
- Grant money received from Harbor Freight is fully used up for the two new Pergolas. Amount spent so far is (verbal status).

Bill

- Election is tonight to elect the Board members for 2026.
- New garden members are Chris (E 8), Rajesh(C8), and Ryan Mikaelion (F4)
- Five vacant parcels available for rent – A 8, A 10, C 3, F4 and F7
- Three people are being interviewed.
- No waitlist currently.
- Parcels should be cleared of remains of summer crop and any trash.
- Only parcel owners will trim and maintain the vegetation.
- Parcel owners will be contacted to do the cleaning and trimming.
- By-laws will be updated in 2026

Alison

- A table is registered on behalf of the OPCG at the Oak Park Wellness Festival to be conducted on March 21, 2026. Plant sales are allowed at the event. Other merchandise can be sold too.
- Seed starting for upcoming Open House is on. WhatsApp group for the same active. Volunteers are welcome to join the group especially for Asian vegetables.
- May 16 Saturday 2026, 9 am to 1 pm is finalized for the OPCG Open House.
- Donations for gifts and raffle are welcome.
- School trips (Oak Hill Elementary School) to the garden will start in end of February. Volunteers are welcome.
- Soil donations will be from Ace Hardware. There will be tables set by Ace Hardware and Las Virgenes water department.
- As a treasurer's goal, would like to know from all garden members on how they would like to see the garden money spent.

Bob

- Greenhouse is operating for seed starting for the upcoming Open House in May.
- No required workday for January.
- Compost will be available mostly by next week or else Athens will be contacted for the same.
- Tools are available in the shed for everyone's use.

Jeff. V

- Three days until completion of two pergolas. Woodchips will be spread to level the ground under the pergolas.
- Roll down shade for sides of the pergolas will be considered.

Julie

- Julie will not continue as a board member for 2026.
- Information was shared regarding U C master gardener event through the month of January and February at Newbury Park library.
- Contact Julie via e mail for more details.
- Be on lookout for trapped birds or small animals in covered parcels.

Concerns and suggestions

Jeff: Does every idea on spending related to garden get voted by members?

Bill: No, Board decides on the spending. Majority of the Board members must approve to spend the garden money.

Jeff: The rents have gone up.

Bill: The bills and spendings have gone up leading to the increase in rent.

Steve: Rent increase was discussed in previous meetings.

Jeff: Tools are unavailable in the shed.

Bob: Tools are available for everyone to use. Power tools are also available to check out and are kept in the back office.

Alison: New set of basic tools with OPCG stickers will be made available outside the back office. A vote will be taken to find the big-ticket items with most demand.

Andrew suggested putting up garden flyers in Oak Park library.

Alison: Flyers are already up in the library in her community groups. Gardeners are welcome to use the same flyers to spread the word in their respective community groups.

Conclusion of election

Newly elected Board members are as follows

Bill Colangelo -President

Lekshmi Shailesh- Vice President

Amanda Martin-Secretary

Alison Batten-Treasurer

Bob Kieling -Garden manager

Minutes of meeting prepared by Lekshmi Shailesh.

Meeting concluded at 8 pm.