

Oak Park Community Garden - General Meeting Minutes

Date: June 18, 2026

Location: Meeting Room, Mae Boyer Park, Oak Park

Meeting Called to Order: 7:03 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 7:54 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda M (F3 & F5), Bill C (B2), Diane C (C2), Roza (A1), Steve K (H2 & I2), Jennifer J (A8), Bob Keiling (E6), Lekshmi Shailish (A2), Lesa Manzo (A9 & B10), Richard McI (A7), Sari Humer (G4), Jeff H (B6 & B7), Julie C (E7), Madelyne G (E3), Jeff V (G3), Ravyn McC (C1)

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of May 21, 2026 Minutes

- Steve confirmed that Friends of Oak Park Open Space was referenced and the checking account balance was corrected
- Motion to approve: Steve K
- Second: Jeff H
- Approved unanimously
- Note: Bill prefers minutes be distributed at least one week in advance of meetings to allow time for member review

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President

- Parcel Chat Night – Nature Journaling event registered 15+ participants
- Julie and Jennifer requested that event information be sent via email, as they do not use WhatsApp
- Amanda to send a general email invitation to all members for future events

Treasurer

- Checking Account Balance: \$18,917
- Savings Account Balance: \$10,561
- All vendors from the open house have been thanked
- Alex's Lemonade Stand will receive a check for \$100, as discussed at the previous meeting

Secretary

- Newsletter is in preparation; member participation encouraged — articles and photos welcome
- Clarification from previous minutes: the Open House generated a profit of \$1,086

GARDEN MANAGER REPORT

- No scheduled work day this month
- Actively seeking wood chip donations from local tree trimming companies
- Athens Compost program: interest from new members being explored; Bob to investigate

Pest & Weed Management

- Bob Keiling has a method for fungus control on tomatoes — members are encouraged to contact him directly

- Aphids: prevention is more effective than treatment; recommended approaches include hosing off plants, bicarbonate of soda spray, and Neem oil
- Bind weed / mint: previously discussed; Captain Jack's product has been tested by Bill with good results — considered a promising start
- Amanda will continue to monitor bind weed in the garden
- Steve K: Bind weed and mint should be bagged and placed in the trash, as both survive composting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Ravyn acknowledged and thanked for checking whether plants she was considering were appropriate before planting
- Members are encouraged to research or search online for any unusual plants to confirm they are suitable and approved for use in a community garden setting
- The banned plant list cannot be exhaustive; member diligence and proactive inquiry are essential

MEMBER NEWS

The following new members were welcomed :

- Roza (A1)
- Natalia (E2)
- Jennifer (A8)
- Ron (D9)
- Susan (F7)

NEW BUSINESS & GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Garden Status

- The garden is currently full with a short wait list

Parcel Build-Outs & Improvement Forms

- Improvement forms are available and important — they exist to assist members and provide ideas from what others have built
- A waiver is required if a tradesman is brought in to perform work on a parcel
- Only organic materials are permitted; Rodale's principles apply

Tools & Equipment

- Hardware cloth should be checked and restapled where needed
- Hog ring tool is being repurchased
- Tools are available in the office for member check-out

Summer Crops

- Summer crops must be kept contained within the member's own parcel
- Members will be notified of violations; formal action will follow if necessary

Shed & Gate Security

- The shed has frequently been left unlocked; members are reminded of their individual responsibility
- A sign will be posted as a reminder; the padlock must be secured to the top lever
- Jeff H noted the gate is also being left open; members should lock upon leaving and reset/scramble the code
- The gate must remain closed at all times for the safety of the garden
- Note from neighboring community: Simi Valley had two gardens closed due to vandalism

- Julie C suggested a log or notice board to record who opened the shed; general consensus is that the person who opens the shed is responsible for locking it or handing it off to another responsible party

Water Management

- All members are asked to report water leaks in hoses and irrigation equipment promptly
- Water costs are tracking well so far this season
- Members with drip irrigation are encouraged to keep valves at half to one-third capacity; garden water pressure is strong and regulators are recommended
- The garden provides equipment for hand watering

Waste & Trash

- Creighton manages trash removal; members must not fill the small portable bin and leave it
- All green waste and refuse must be placed in the large bins
- Members are asked to be respectful and mindful of the work Creighton does

Donations & Greenhouse

- Steve has donated a collection of pots, which will be housed in the greenhouse
- Joann K has a number of Gladiator tomatoes available; these will also be placed in the greenhouse — Bob is assisting with this
- Steve is donating a replacement Carolina Cherry tree to the garden

Water Bottle Filler / Drinking Fountain

- A water bottle filling station/drinking fountain will be installed near the shed, funded by open house proceeds
- Discussion of placement: the pergola area was suggested, but gray water drainage is a consideration; the unit is approximately 40 inches high and heavy, and a lower-traffic location is preferred

- Julie C raised whether it might attract members of the public into the garden; general sense is that it will not be visible from outside the garden
- Sanitizing the unit: covering the spout when not in use is recommended; the unit may include a built-in door; similar fountains in other local parks have not posed significant issues
- Both shed doors must be able to open fully when we install the filling station; the Seed Library is to be relocated to accommodate this

Porta-Potty

- Evidence of mice nesting in the porta-potty; weatherstripping may be needed to prevent further access

Garden Facts

New member enquired about garden statistics Bill provided the following.

- The garden has 71 parcels
- Approximately 53-54 active gardeners
- The garden is 22 years old, with some original founding members still actively gardening

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Martin

Recording Secretary 2026