

Creekside Community Garden

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 27th, 2022

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Zoom

In Attendance

Teang, Alice, Lena, Sylvia, MJ, Natalie, Medina, Robyn, Kerry, Bev, Shannon, Arlene, Helena, Sunmin

Introductions & Vision

Meeting was kicked off with a roundtable of introductions. The following is a list what gardeners would like to see for 2022:

- Better maintenance of the garden
- Incorporate a structure that is fair, democratic, inclusive, and FUN where our hard work will pay off for everyone's benefit.
- Friendly environment, fairness, more structured and everyone is on the same page
- Get more bumblebees in the garden
- Develop more of a sense of community in the garden. Give everyone an opportunity to contribute more than just outside of their our own plots.
- Fix all the plots and continue to enjoy the garden.
- More structure, more friendly community
- The garden is a happy place where we can come together and share seeds, seedlings, etc. It is a happy place where we all visit and leave feeling happy and uplifted.
- Be in the garden without worries of masks and distancing this year. See a happier, more inclusive environment for the garden.
- Work on building it as a community to be a welcoming, happy, inclusive space for all to enjoy equally.
- Garden is low-key and fun
- Community building, improve on safety. Block off space behind the metal bin.
- The garden becomes a positive environment for all

Membership

We currently have 22 plots. We reviewed the 2021 plot assignments and adjusted membership based on 4 gardeners who had given up their plots which will be assigned to 4 members from the waitlist.

Revoking membership was discussed as a group. The group agreed that there needs to be a proper process in place prior to revocation (i.e. 3 warning system).

Rules & Regulations

There is confusion around the rules and regulations that are currently in place. For 2022, the rules and regulations will be reviewed by the newly elected coordinator and a committee. Once approved, get sign off from gardeners and post on the website.

Financial

We currently have \$837.52.

Election

All 2021 gardeners were given the opportunity to vote prior to the meeting via SurveyMonkey. The names put forward were the current interim coordinator and other nominees. Tanya has stepped down in an email sent prior to the meeting. 15 votes were cast and the results are below:

- Tanya Brown 0%;
- Sylvia Ceacero 86.67% (13 votes)
- None of the above 13.33% (2 votes)

Sylvia accepted the role as Coordinator and put forward Teang as Co-coordinator and Medina as Treasurer. Both accepted. New Executive Committee for 2022 is as follows:

- **Co-coordinators:** Sylvia & Teang
- **Treasurer:** Medina

Moving forward, consider the following for elections:

- Set a threshold for minimum number of members required to have a vote (quorum)
- Set a term for coordinators so that they are not doing it forever and we give the opportunity to rotate the role.
- New coordinator needs some overlap with previous coordinator
- Need to develop job descriptions for various roles.

Website & General Email

www.creeksidecommunitygarden.com has been launched along with a general email address info@creeksidecommunitygarden.com. The executive will have access to this email. Below are additional ideas for the website:

- Sign up for waitlist online
- QR code signs at the garden for those that don't have means to capture info.
- Develop business cards and marketing materials to leave at the community center
- Setup emails for gardeners (i.e., "Gardenername"@creeksidecommunitygarden.com)
- QR Scan with an option for voice history or for those who are sight-impaired.

Registering as society/non-profit

There was discussion around this topic but no decision was made. The vote will be postponed. The new executive committee will conduct more research into the pros/cons and present it to the group for voting. The name "Creekside Community Garden Society" has been reserved and we have until April 21st to file as a society should we wish to do so.

Work Party

Keep the current work party date of March 13th. New Coordinators to create task list and setup volunteer signup sheet.

Other Comments/Ideas for the garden

The following were additional ideas brought up for the garden

- Make the garden more inclusive. Set aside 2 plots for people that may not be able to afford to pay for a plot, transient population, or daycare.
- Utilize our garden for events around town (garden display, etc.) – Pride Week, etc.
- Setup an Equity and Inclusivity Committee.
- Setup a needle collection box in the garden.
- Connect with other community gardens for knowledge exchange.
- Setup regular meetings for the gardeners via zoom.

Next Meeting

Doodle Poll will be sent out to determine the Work Party date.