

Goldenrod Community Garden

MINUTES

Board Meeting for 22 January 2024, 7:30pm

Agenda:

1. Attendees: Andrew M, Barbara S, Diane M, Parminder D, Patrick W, Sara C, Tanya S.
2. Review and approval of Minutes: 4 December 2023 – Approved with suggested changes
Review and approval of Jan 9, 2024 Annual Planning Meeting – Approved with suggested changes
3. Adoption of the agenda – Adopted with suggested changes
4. Reports from Committees:
 - a. Bullman Garden Liaison (Patrick / Sara)
 - Sara reached out again to Marsh and Just Food to follow up on the insurance for the Bullman garden.
 - b. Communications (Parminder)
 - Parm started on a draft newsletter, summarized the survey results and will add a few seminars. Will do updates in the webpage, the Board can review later: adding Records of Decisions, a calendar of events, will edit the directors' list.
 - Patrick will help with the newsletter.
 - Link added by Patrick:
<https://support.wix.com/en/article/wix-editor-getting-site-feedback#:~:text=Every%20site%20in%20your%20Wix,build%20the%20best%20possible%20site.>
 - c. Compost (Andrew with support from Sara and Patrick): nothing to report for now.
 - d. Events (Patrick)
Include in the next newsletter:
 - Seed swap/potluck member survey, draft provided at the following link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xgy35hBv8_91m-pEW5JIT1CFBTgU-jlN_fZSa62QacQ/edit
 - Upcoming seed exchanges
 - [Carlington Seed Exchange](#) – Thursday, February 29, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
 - [Seedy Saturday](#) – Saturday, March 2, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
 - [Ottawa Valley Seedy Sunday](#) – Sunday, March 5, 10:00 am - 3:00 am
 - GCG to offer a webinar on garden planning and seed starting but not on February 22 which is when Just Food is offering theirs. Tanya is looking for a co-facilitator for the webinar, she will ask Patrick J, a member of the garden.
 - Topics of interest for 2024 events/speakers/community building proposed by Patrick W:
 - Succession planting
 - Pest management
 - Building soil/composting
 - Seed saving
 - Shelter/shade
 - Signage
 - Potential event: Worm-picking day? - later in the season
 - e. Fundraising (not active this year)

- f. Garden Coordinators (Parminder / Diane)
 - Parminder and Diane signed up as Garden Coordinators, which gives them access to Just Food's Food Chat network.
- g. Membership (Barbara with support from Patrick)
 - Barbara wishes to create a sub-committee tasked with recruiting members amongst low income neighbours for the sliding scale plots.
 - Parminder will reach out to Cornerstone; her neighbour works in Social Services and could make recommendations. Wabana Centre is another possibility.
- h. Pollinator Garden Liaison (Hazel with support from Diane): nothing to report for now.
- i. Properties (Andrew)
 - The lining under the roof of the small shed has cracked. One solution is to seal the roof and add a gutter attachment (\$100-200). Another is to build another roof on top of the existing one, as a canopy but might need approval from the NCC before proceeding.
- j. Treasurer's report (Tanya)
 - No expenditures since the last report. She recommends that the \$2,300 in Special Projects be transferred to the reserve fund, bringing it to \$7,000 which is enough to cover our maintenance needs.
 - Recommends renting the Goldenrod plots in 2024 for \$60, while they might rent for \$40 at Bullman due to a late start of the season. She predicts an operating shortfall this year as \$2,000 might be required to purchase seating and tools for Bullman while income from that garden is not assured. The garden has been operating in a surplus for three years so this deficit is reasonable and will be covered by the Special Projects Fund build up over past years.
 - Tanya will prepare scenarios about different plot fees to be discussed at the next meeting.
 - GCG will be making a donation to Parkdale Food Centre from fees paid in excess of the required \$10 for the sliding scale plots that couldn't be assigned to low income neighbors for 2023.
- k. President's report (Sara)
 - Sara will talk to Richcraft for clarification on the size of the plots, how many there might be, and the opening date.
 - She asked Just Food to confirm with the NCC to see if we can continue to garden at the Goldenrod site this summer as the lease will expire in April, Just Food will get back to her.
5. Carry forward agenda items
6. New business
 - a. Build an owl nest box (where to put it, will decoys in plots keep them away)
 - Parm's friend informed that the owls would only use it in the winter.
 - b. Water usage: what to budget for next year – *See action item below*
7. To note from Action items (below)
8. Next meeting: Monday, February 12 at 7:30 pm

Action Items

Action	Assigned	Status
1. Parminder will post a calendar of events on the website the week of January 22; she has no access to the two Facebook groups. One is for the organization, the other is for the gardeners to connect. Sara will look for the name of the owners.	22-Jan-24	In progress
2. Barbara is sorting out the Google Inbox account. Waiting to see if Evan can get into the account with the new password she sent him. Will wait one more week to give him a chance to reply. Will check mail that arrived in the last three months, not trying to save everything in the account.	26-Jun-23	In progress
3. Tanya will prepare scenarios about different plot fees to be discussed at the February 12, 2024 meeting.	22-Jan-24	In progress
4. Andrew will remind Kimo about sharpening the lawn mower blade and will inquire what he intends to do with the stain in the new shed. He will follow up once an opening date is established for the GCG garden.	13-Nov-23	On hold (spring)

Upcoming business	Assigned	Date to revisit
1. Events Committee: Webinar on garden planning and seed starting, as for the last two years, as per Tanya's email of Nov 22.	22-Nov-23	Mid-February
2. Events Committee: Rent a room in the spring for a seed and seedling swap event.	03-Oct-23	Spring
3. Events Committee: Sara proposed teaching members how to compost in their households.	13-Nov-23	Spring
4. Membership Committee: Barbara to create a sub-committee tasked with recruiting members amongst low income neighbours for the sliding scale plots.	22-Jan-24	Spring
5. Membership Committee: Parminder will reach out to Cornerstone; her neighbour works in Social Services and could make recommendations. Wabana Centre is another possibility.	22-Jan-24	Spring
6. Properties Committee: Kimo will design a map to break down the mowing chore to help balance the task.	03-Oct-23	Spring
7. Properties Committee: Need a system to channel the water into the rain barrel at the new tool shed.	03-Oct-23	Spring

8. Properties Committee: Levers missing on two rain barrels, might have broken – new taps are being considered. The ends of the hoses screw off, so it’s a non-issue. Platform needs to be leveled as well so that both secondary tanks get water.	03-Oct-23	Spring
9. Properties Committee: Add hatches to the fencing so that water tanks can be more easily accessed without risk of injury or getting drenched.	13-Nov-23	Spring
10. Properties Committee: Put cardboard and landscape fabric under the bike rack to control weeds. Do the same under the bales of straw.	13-Nov-23	Spring
11. Compost Committee: Reach out to Akil about when/how to get the worms going again.	04-Dec-23	Spring