

Goldenrod Community Garden

MINUTES

Board Meeting for 11 March 2025, 7:30pm

Agenda:

1. Roll call: Sara C, Parminder D, Andrew M, Diane M, Jane O, Barbara S
Regrets: Kumari P, Tanya S
2. Adoption of the agenda: Adopted
3. Review and approval of Minutes of 25 February 2025: Approved with suggested changes
4. Reports from Committees:
 - a. Bullman Garden Liaison (Kumari)
 - No report
 - b. Communications (Parminder)
 - An increase of hits on Facebook Group was observed, perhaps because the gardening season approaches
 - The draft for the next newsletter was started and will be forwarded to the Board soon
 - c. Events (Parminder / Barbara / Sara)
 - Diane informed that Hazel wishes to offer a workshop in the garden in June to teach people how to emboss cans to make plant labels and have participants make some for the pollinator gardens. Parminder will add this to the Events calendar
 - A workshop offered by Allegra will be added to the Events calendar; Parminder will reach out to her for details
 - Parminder now has access to a friend's projector for the seminars
 - d. Garden Coordinators (Parminder / Diane)
 - Diane informed of Box of Life's phenomenal success on Kickstarter. Sara explained what the mandate of this company is and how they are involved with the garden.
 - e. Membership (Barbara)
 - The registration form was sent to the Board for testing, payment on the Goldenrod form is not working but it works for Bullman. Barbara will have a closer look at it
 - Richcraft reached out to her to inform they wish to retain 12 plots this season
 - f. Properties – Build, Maintenance, Soil Building, Pollinator Gardens teams (Andrew)
(with support from Diane for pollinator gardens)
 - Andrew informed that he completed the first draft of the Soil Building poster. The one for Goldenrod will instruct to put kitchen waste in the box designated for it beside the shed (volunteers will transfer it to the vermicomposter) while the one for Bullman will not have a reference to kitchen waste. Sara will seek approval from the NCC to display the poster
 - He also completed a first draft of the Soil Building Program for the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual
 - g. Properties – Bullman (Kumari with support from Diane)
 - No report

- h. Treasurer's report (Tanya)
 - No report
- i. President's report (Sara)
 - A volunteer, Bryn L, will join us on the Board at the next meeting
 - Water bills were received from Richcraft for the 2024 season. It appears the total per season will remain under the \$1,200 threshold offered by them
 - No reply received yet from Just Food on the inquiry about how other gardens deter theft from humans and wildlife

5. Carry forward agenda items

6. New business

- Review the complaints/suggestions from the Membership Survey
 - One comment received against smoking in the garden: it falls under City Bylaws. Jane will contact the City to obtain No Smoking signs for the garden
 - Set up fences around plots to deter the wildlife: plots at the Nanny Goat Hill garden apparently have fences around them. Parminder will inquire if they can give us a workshop or instructions to implement this solution at Goldenrod
 - Demand for more seminars on gardening topics: Parminder will seek volunteers for this through the newsletter and social media.
 - Assistance with getting started: an onboarding kit could be handed out that would contain seeds. Parminder will include this in the Events calendar for late April, she will forward an agenda for it by the end of the week
 - A more active Facebook group requested: One Communications volunteer will be helping out with social media, he might publish a monthly post. It could consist of just a question that gardeners are invited to answer
 - Help identifying weeds: Could be done upon request. They could also post a picture in Google Group. The registration form could include an item asking people if they want to assist with the online chat group – there would be a separate one for the Bullman garden. Not sure yet if the chat list would be valid for just one year – will be determined by Sara and Barbara
 - Offer mini greenhouses over winter: The garden is not accessible in the winter but it will be investigated regardless
 - How to discourage theft by humans: perhaps gardeners should post a sign in their plot, to make people think twice before helping themselves
 - Information about staking techniques: Parminder will give a presentation on how to stake
 - Do not shut down the plots so early: Gardeners have always had the option to continue gardening after the closing date, the problem might have been with how the message was crafted
- Review [Soil Building Program SOP & Soil Building Poster](#) – *deferred*
 - How much should be added to the General SOP
- Reminder on how our new email addresses work (i.e., andrew-compost)
 - Mail arriving at the generic email address is automatically forwarded to the director's personal email currently used for the Board group address
- Activity for 27 beaver kids (ages 5-7) on Wednesday, April 23 – *deferred*

7. To note from Action items (below)

8. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 pm

Update on past Action Items

Action	Assigned	Status
1. Andrew is preparing three bilingual compost signs, due in May	08-July-24	In progress
2. Barbara suggested treating groups that rent a plot differently than individual gardeners next year; she presented the following proposal: Where a group is looking to take on more than 1 plot for their organisation, we could at the Board's discretion allow the group to take up to 2 plots based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group successfully completes a season with a single plot - Group's aims align with our garden aims 	28-Nov-24	March 2025
3. Andrew will add a section on Soil Building in the Standard Operating Procedures document (available for review since March 11)	25-Mar-24	In progress

Upcoming business	Assigned	Date to revisit
1. Parminder will update the FAQ sheet on the website	08-Oct-24	Winter
2. Parminder: Develop guidelines for SOP about Facebook management	09-Sep-24	Winter
3. Parminder will forward to the Board links to the bamboo dishware to be purchased for events as well as an estimated total price	09-Sep-24	Spring 2025
4. Board: Invest in second seating area near the main shed at Goldenrod	12-Aug-24	Spring 2025
5. Events Committee: Reach out to Allegra to organize a workshop on low maintenance gardening (water retention workshop)	25-Mar-24	Spring 2025
6. Events Committee: Look at compost under a microscope (Andrew)	25-Mar-24	Spring 2025
7. Properties: Contact local cafés to obtain ground coffee for the worms	29-Oct-24	Spring 2025
8. Diane will recreate the City's list of organizations that provide free meals, as the City declined to reinstate it [Draft in progress parked in Comms Cttee / Signs folder]	12-Jan-25	Spring 2025
9. Hazel will organize a workshop to teach gardeners how to emboss aluminum cans to make lasting plant labels	03-03-25	June 2025