

Goldenrod Community Garden

MINUTES

Board Meeting for 27 May 2025, 7:15 pm

In person at the Goldenrod Garden

Agenda:

1. Roll call: Sara C, Parminder D, Bryn L, Andrew M, Diane M, Kumari P, Tanya S, Barbara S
Regrets: Jane O
2. Adoption of the agenda: Adopted with the suggested changes
3. Review and approval of 23 April and 6 May 2025 Minutes: Approved with the suggested changes
4. Reports from Committees:
 - a. President's report (Sara)
 - The Beaver Scouts' visit was successful. Diane wrote an article for the next newsletter
 - Just Food is awaiting a response from the NCC for the fruit bed proposal; they are also working with the NCC to secure a multi-year land use agreement
 - Raised beds applicable only to gardens on City land and is currently in review with the new City policy
 - Just Food has minimum height requirements for accessible beds if they are being designed for accessibility. However, they encourage, support and prioritize in-ground planting whenever possible
 - There was a delay in getting the water turned on this season at the Bullman garden, it finally happened on May 21
 - b. Treasurer's report (Tanya)
 - The garden is expected to reach its forecasted figure for plot rentals; the main expenditures this spring were water, straw and compost delivery
 - The internal process for submitting requests for payment or reimbursement was clarified; the Standard Operating Procedures manual will be updated accordingly and signatories are encouraged to review the process in the spring
 - There is a healthy balance in the Special Projects Fund from previous years
 - The March and April Financial Reports were forwarded by e-mail on 12 May 2025
 - c. Membership (Barbara)
 - Google Groups will be sorted out; Sara offered to help
 - Suggestion made to ask for volunteers to watch if plots were planted by the due date; a team at each garden could inspect in early June and report their findings to Barbara
 - d. Properties – Build, Maintenance, Soil Building, Pollinator Gardens teams (Andrew)
(with support from: Sara for soil building, Bryn for pollinator gardens)
 - The first Volunteer Day was on May 10 from 10 am to 2 pm: work begun on emptying the compost bins, property was mowed, plots were amended, straw was staged, gardeners were offered materials in the sheds, chairs were put out, rain barrels were set up, water is ready, compost and straw delivered, some work was done on the pollinator gardens

- There is an issue with one of the water tanks. It is holding water, but we cannot release the water. Will follow-up to see how to fix it or if the part needs to be replaced
- Most volunteers self-identified as general helpers; one volunteer has offered to take charge of the plot numbering
- Maintenance and Soil teams have been added to Google Groups
- One volunteer has offered to fix the vermicomposter and has already fixed garden plots and the small shed. They have access to a battery-operated trimmer and will use that to manage growth around the plots
- A Pollinator Garden Day was held on May 26. About 10 volunteers showed up to weed, fix the fencing, and re-dig the trenches around the gardens
- The worm bench was 'woken up' on May 26, it is ready to receive kitchen scraps
- A Communications volunteer has offered to help launch an awareness drive for composting
- 1 of 2 of the hot compost bins have been sieved. The third is now full of organic material to break down
- Bryn suggested reaching out to the people who built the first pollinator garden to obtain the mapping of plants. Andrew will connect her to Kristen. She will become the pollinator gardens' lead if a volunteer can't be found to fill that role

e. Bullman Garden Properties Liaison (Kumari and Diane)

- Most of the mushroom compost that was delivered in the parking lot on May 10 was moved inside the garden by May 25. The remainder was offered by Diane to a community garden that grows food strictly for the Parkdale Food Centre; they unexpectedly extended the offer to some of their colleagues, hence clearing out the pile in the parking lot before the adjacent food truck re-opened on Tuesday morning, as intended

f. Communications (Parminder)

- The May newsletter will be dispatched soon and will include a description of our upcoming events
- Members will be informed of a presentation by a Master Gardener on June 17 at 7 pm at the Tom Brown Arena

g. Events (Parminder / Barbara / Sara)

- A potluck will be held on Sunday, June 22 at 5 pm at the Goldenrod garden, followed by a presentation at 6 pm on how to prune and stake tomatoes

h. Garden Coordinators (Parminder / Diane)

- Diane informed that two geese were seen feeding in a plot at Goldenrod on May 21 and left feces behind, which she removed

5. Carry forward agenda items

- Volunteer engagement status
 - Andrew informed that he conducted an online orientation session and held his first Volunteer Day; Maintenance and Soil volunteers were added to Google Groups
 - He suggested that a discussion is required on how best to use the Property Google Group
 - Parminder will ask members who self-identified as experienced gardeners in their registration form to give a workshop
- Fruit bed: approval by the NCC might take some time. Sara proposed to use the wood we have in the Goldenrod shed to build a fruit bed at the Bullman garden for the donated currant bushes. There were no objections. An experienced volunteer with tools is keen to build things for the garden. Sara will seek permission from Richcraft before proceeding

6. New business

- Frequency of BOD meeting: monthly during the summer?
 - The interval between meetings will be decided at each meeting
- Discuss: Minimizing new BOD business taking place over e-mails
 - A suggestion had been made in the past to conduct as much business as possible by e-mail so that the meetings can be devoted mostly to making decisions, however some directors deemed the quantity of mail abundant and it was noted that some information might not be captured in the Minutes. Directors will henceforth cut back on doing business by e-mail
- Discuss: Dog policy at Goldenrod
 - The Board can't enforce a no dog policy at Goldenrod, it's different at the Parkdale-Bullman garden because it is fenced in
- Update on the Compost Posters (approval and translations) – translations were received by Andrew
- Soil testing at Goldenrod – Has this ever happened?
 - It was discussed by the Interim Board of Directors but was not executed.
- Requesting that next newsletter asks Members to donate kitchen scraps to the Goldenrod (Andrew)

7. To note from Action items (below)

- #2 in Upcoming business: Buy furniture for a second seating area near the main shed? (Diane)
 - This suggestion is now cancelled as the space that was available in front of the main shed is currently occupied by the bales of straw and black compost bins. Important staging ground for volunteer work.
- #3 in Upcoming business: Feeding the worms
 - Andrew informed us that the worm bench has the potential to process four to five 5-gallon containers a week of organic matter and last year we averaged less than a bucket per week. Akil suggested that we follow suit with other community gardens and work with local cafes to get access to more kitchen waste. Right now it's a question of capacity when it comes to managing kitchen waste. He is trialing out the bin and the posters, and he will be working directly with the volunteers to build this capacity

8. Next meeting: Monday June 23, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Update on past Action Items

Action	Assigned	Status
1. Ensure that access when someone is not available is covered, i.e. what the process is for email, Square, etc. Sara and Tanya will discuss this offline; a backup person is required for the President and the Treasurer email account; Square, DropBox, Treasurer mail to be noted in the SOP – access will be given to Andrew, who is the Treasurer's backup	26-Mar-25	April 2025
2. Parminder will give a presentation on how to stake plants	11-Mar-25	Was planned
3. Parminder will contact Nanny Goat Hill to inquire about the fencing around the plots	11-Mar-25	In progress

4. GCG Maintenance - Ask for volunteers to verify if plots were planted by the due date	27-May-25	Requested
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Upcoming business	Assigned	Date to revisit
1. 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
2. Board: Invest in second seating area near the main shed at Goldenrod	12-Aug-24	Cancelled
3. Properties: Contact local cafés to obtain ground coffee for the worms	29-Oct-24	See update in No. 7 above
4. [to be assigned] Investigate mini greenhouses for the winter (from the survey). Could suggest row cover until December and for early spring. Will revisit this in the fall	11-Mar-25	Fall 2025
5. Parminder will update the FAQ sheet on the website	08-Oct-24	Fall 2025
6. Parminder: Develop guidelines for SOP about Facebook management	09-Sep-24	Fall 2025
7. Barbara: Prepare separate registration forms for each garden site so that a different Board member can be responsible for the registration process at the Bullman garden	23-Apr-25	Fall 2025