

Goldenrod Community Garden

MINUTES

Board Meeting for 23 April 2025, 7:30pm

Agenda:

1. Roll call: Sara C, Parminder D, Bryn L, Andrew M, Diane M, Jane O
Regrets: Kumari P, Tanya S, Barbara S
2. Adoption of the agenda: Adopted with suggested changes
3. Review and approval of 8 April 2025 Minutes: Approved
4. Reports from Committees:
 - a. President's report (Sara)
 - Beaver Scouts may bring seedlings on May 21st
 - Laura, a Communications volunteer, is keen to help (is a Friend of the Garden) – she was put in touch with Parminder
 - Seed packets received from Just Food were delivered to Bryn and Diane
 - b. Treasurer's report (Tanya)
 - No report
 - c. Membership (Barbara) – report provided by e-mail
 - There is currently one plot available at the Bullman garden. Once assigned, the remaining 23 plots at Goldenrod will be addressed
 - The contact list was updated with the most recent set of new plot holders
 - Suggestion made for next year to split the workload and have a registrar for each site. To be discussed at a future meeting. Will this require another Square account? Parminder said that only another link will be required
 - d. Properties – Build, Maintenance, Soil Building, Pollinator Gardens teams (Andrew)
(with support from: Sara for soil building, Diane for pollinator gardens)
 - First Volunteer Orientation meeting held on April 22nd: 17 attended, 3 were unable to
 - Will meet with the Build Team ahead of the May 10th event. Other teams will meet at that event and coordinate tasks. The Board questioned which build projects are being considered – to be noted in the April newsletter
 - Did a tour of Goldenrod, all is well
 - Kimo has taken the mower to be serviced
 - e. Bullman Garden Liaison (Kumari)
 - Diane informed that:
 - Richcraft locked the gate after realizing that neighbours were letting their dogs run freely in the enclosure. A large amount of dog poop was collected by a Board member once they unlocked the gate
 - One of the food truck's security camera captures the entrance to the garden, footage was viewed by Richcraft

- A Police Report was filed by the Mexican owners of the food truck to report theft of recycle bins, graffiti on the front of the truck, drug paraphernalia found on a picnic table as well as the axe used to attempt to break down the truck's door
 - Parminder will give her key to the shed to Jane
- f. Communications (Parminder)
 - The April newsletter will soon be finalized and dispatched at month-end
 - Laura, a new Communications volunteer, will be called upon to help with the May newsletter while another volunteer proficient in social media wants to be actively involved
- g. Events (Parminder / Barbara / Sara)
 - The Events Calendar was added to our webpage, there are no rain dates for the potlucks. Canopy shelters will be set up at each occasion, the event will proceed unless it's pouring or there is lightning. The weather forecast will be checked a few days prior to ensure people don't cook unnecessarily if the event is cancelled
 - Facebook invitations will be created as well
- h. Garden Coordinators (Parminder / Diane)
 - Diane informed that the City accepts plastic bags, meat and dairy in their compost bins and gardeners might drop the same in the gardens' compost bins. The new signage might help control unwanted contributions

5. Carry forward agenda items

- Barbara had suggested last fall treating groups that rent a plot differently than individual gardeners: this is no longer an issue as most of the groups from last year did not return, it can be revisited in the future if required
- Garden opening checklist, May 10 from 10 am to 2 pm:
 - Andrew will order straw and mushroom compost prior to May 10. Diane will lay down tarp at the Bullman garden for the compost. Water won't be ordered until Andrew informs that the piping at Goldenrod is hooked up
 - Parminder will bring two water jugs for the volunteers; donated seeds already in the shed
 - Jane, Parminder and Diane will be at the Bullman garden; Parminder will bring two shovels to that site; Barbara might get some from the tool library; Andrew will check with Kimo for more – the goal would be 3-4 shovels at each site

6. New business

- Should we have a No Dogs Allowed sign at the Bullman garden? Should it include a warning about the \$240 fine? Should we have a 'Video surveillance' sign? (Diane)
 - The two samples shown to the Board were approved: No Dogs Allowed with a crossed-out dog picture, as well as a "PRIVATE PROPERTY for use by garden members only". Sara will seek approval from Richcraft before ordering the signs
- WholeHearted, a local entreprise hosting a planting initiative titled The Seeded Paper, inquired if Goldenrod would be interested in receiving some of these packets that contain a mix of wild flowers (Barbara)
 - Bryn will ask Barbara to contact the organization to let them know that the Board politely declines the offer, our primary goal is to grow food

7. To note from Action items (below)

- Andrew shared a sample of the two compost posters. The one about Garden Composting is designed for both gardens while the one on Kitchen Composting is for Goldenrod. Both will

measure 24" x 18". Parminder will get someone to translate them; Sara will forward them to the NCC and Just Food for approval. They would ideally be in place for opening day

8. Next meeting: Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 pm

Update on past Action Items

Action	Assigned	Status
1. Parminder will give a presentation late April for onboarding gardeners, will send the agenda to the Board by March 16	11-Mar-25	In progress
2. Jane will contact the City of Ottawa to obtain a No Smoking sign	11-Mar-25	In progress
3. Andrew is preparing three bilingual compost signs, due in May	08-July-24	Complete
4. 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	Cancelled
5. 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
6. Parminder will contact Nanny Goat Hill to inquire about the fencing around the plots	11-Mar-25	In progress

Upcoming business	Assigned	Date to revisit
1. Parminder will give a presentation on how to stake plants	11-Mar-25	In progress
2. 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
3. Board: Invest in second seating area near the main shed at Goldenrod	12-Aug-24	Spring 2025
4. Properties: Contact local cafés to obtain ground coffee for the worms	29-Oct-24	Spring 2025
5. [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
6. Parminder will update the FAQ sheet on the website	08-Oct-24	Fall 2025
7. Parminder: Develop guidelines for SOP about Facebook management	09-Sep-24	Fall 2025