

Goldenrod Community Garden Meeting – June 8, 2021

Topic: Goldenrod Community Garden Interim Board meeting

Present: Allegra, Susan, Carmel, Amanda, Tanya, Dietrich, Diane, Bryn, Catherine, Al, Sara

Regrets:

1. Review of GCG governance
 - Robert's rules of order
 - Meetings will begin with approving meeting minutes from last week
 - Decisions will follow a process to formalize our decision-making: tabled on the agenda, discussion and vote.
 - Susan distributed a document on how we will use Robert's Rules.
 - Begin using this format next week
 - Board roles and responsibilities
 - Webmaster will be included in Communications role
 - Add Fundraising Coordinator role - Bryn will draft responsibilities for this role
 - Garden Coordinator included in membership coordinator role (to include answering emails)
 - Just Food communications will continue to be the role of the president
 - Build coordinator will transition to maintenance coordinator
 - Board elections
 - Proposal for current interim board to more formally elect an interim board in the next couple of meetings, which will make garden decisions until the AGM in the fall. This will establish all of the board positions and formalize the decision-making body until the AGM. At that point any member can run for a board position and we will have an election with the full membership.
 - Decision: Susan put forward a motion to include already participating interim board members (11 total) as decision-makers on the interim board, without filling specific board positions. The motion was Seconded by Bryn and all were in favour. This group will guide the garden until the fall AGM.
2. Soil testing
 - Proposal to consider soil testing. Fruit and nut trees are the safest things to plant in contaminated soil. Soil testing is not that complicated or expensive. This is something we could think about in the future if there are things we want to plant in the ground.
 - We wanted to do in-ground gardening and to do soil testing from the beginning of planning the garden, but NCC wouldn't allow us. There is evidence that there

may be significant contamination nearby, so NCC is very cautious about it. We can touch base with NCC about this again next year.

- It is possible to do fruit and nut trees in raised beds.

3. Maintenance and event committees

- Maintenance committee: build committee will transition to maintenance committee gradually over the coming months. Dietrich/AI will consult with the committee to ask for someone to check water levels. There's a list of people who expressed interest in helping with maintenance. Dietrich or AI will reach out to them with Sara's help.
- Event committee: There were volunteers interested in this in the survey. We will follow up with those who expressed interest, but also to the whole membership, about starting this committee. Susan will lead this. Proposal that we invite people to help with the work rather than inviting them to join a committee.

4. Garden opening event

- Proposal to hold an event the second week of July, 5-9th.
- Jeff Leiper, Catherine Mckenna, and Just Food - invite them to record a video that we could edit together and release. Meet them at the garden and publicly thank them. Include Allegra (or someone else) talking about the history of the garden. Potentially a ribbon cutting or have them plant a seedling. There is a plot we can set aside for this purpose.
- Susan will reach out to Sun Shan, Communications committee will reach out to Catherine Mckenna and Jeff Leiper.
- Include Joel Harden. Allegra will reach out to Parkdale and Somerset West. Carmel will reach out to invited someone from the indigenous community.

5. Facebook group

- Agree to set up a private Facebook group for members. Amanda agrees to help moderate.

6. What to do with 4 remaining sliding-scale plots

- Want to make sure that those plots remain sliding scale next year
- Proposal: use one for marketing purposes, let politicians/donors plant something (symbolic) and then it can be repurposed next year
- Agree to give the remaining 3 plots to those on the waitlist, although they aren't seeking sliding scale.

7. Committee updates

- Finance: currently the balance is healthy, although we'll go over on slinger costs. Gardeners have paid above and beyond what we anticipated in membership fees (approx \$700?)
- Build: The Interim Board acknowledges Ray's considerable efforts in getting the garden established and built. Thank you Ray!! There's a pile of soil on the ground

for people to top up their plots. We'll hold onto some for the remediation of the paths. Roof for the shed is on site, Dietrich ordered the rest of the shed supplies. Plans for fence and shed are in the works. Last major step is the remediation of the accessible path (need to work with Just Food - Susan will contact).

- Communications: Ok to share thank-you letter publicly.

Action items:

- Welcome email to members and include an introduction of the board members, to be in place until AGM in the fall.
- Dietrich/AI will work with Sara to reach out to people who expressed interest in helping with maintenance to find people who can assist with future tasks, as well as monitoring water levels.
- All: send any event ideas out to Susan as examples. Susan (with Sara) will send an email out to membership at large about setting up an event committee.
- Susan will talk with Just Food about coordinating with Just Food about building shed and remediation of accessible path.
- For the opening event, Susan will reach out to Sun Shan, Communications committee will reach out to Catherine Mckenna, Joel Harden, and Jeff Leiper. Allegra will reach out to Parkdale and Somerset West. And Carmel to the indigenous community.