

Project Grow Board Minutes

Feb 10th, 2022

Zoom

Meeting began at 7:06 pm

Board members present:

Royer Held

Joe Schutte

Dan Noble

Dave Corsa

W. Scott Richardson

Sharon Fay

Joet Reoma

Joanie Stovall (showed up before it was over & did a report out)

also: Kirk Jones: Managing Director, Marcella

Absent: Jesse Raudenbush.

Meeting started at 7:04PM

Marcella nominated for a three-year board position. She was elected unanimously by the board members present.

January board minutes approved

Managing Director's Report (copied directly from the report with comments included in red)

Community Gardens

Registration is going well with 329 confirmed and 62 unconfirmed on February 8th. Last year we had confirmed 396, but confirmations this year are ahead of every other except 2021.

Many sites are filled, or will be once we know which plots are available and confirm people waiting. The following sites are now full or will be after confirming current applicants:

Clague

Food Gatherers

Greenview
Hillside
Hunt
Lakewood
Matthaei
Northside
West Park
Zion

Lots of space at the three Discovery Gardens.

Articles of Incorporation Meeting

This is mostly a reminder for me to send an email to everyone. Right now 39 people have said they want to attend. They probably won't all come but it will easily be a quorum. Rita Caruso asked us to include a link to the bylaws. I will do that but it means we need to send the information sooner rather than later. We should plan for lots of questions and possibly use Zoom "raised hand" to allow everyone to speak.

Meeting with Ann Arbor Parks

Our MOU with Ann Arbor Parks is good for another year. We did ask about compostable pickup at West Park and Hunt. While pickup is possible, the conditions for doing this sound onerous to me. We can place the bins which would be 96 Gallon Carts. Carts will need to be at the nearest curb for service @ 7am on the area service day and returned later the same day, same as residential composting.

Carts would have to be chained up as to not be stolen.

Trash in the cart may be a problem and will need to be monitored.

Project Grow would need to follow the City Compost guidelines, debris size, composting material etc. **Lots of discussion about compost bins. Moving any discussion about it to the Coordinator Meeting.**

Member Handbook Revisions

At the retreat the plan we agreed to was:

- Initial draft of revisions - completed 1/31/22 and sent to board members at the retreat (completed)

- Further revisions based on comments from the board at the retreat - I've received some from Dan and Joanie. Anyone else? (partially completed)
- Further revisions from site coordinators and other board@ folks who did not attend the retreat. (incomplete)

Further revisions from site coordinators and other board@ folks who did not attend the retreat. (incomplete)

I sent everyone a reminder about this on Monday February 7th.

First we will send it to the board, then after approval, to the site coordinated.

More than One Plot

Right now, when someone is assigned more than one plot, they usually have the right to continue to renew the plot indefinitely. How this is handled depends on where the plots are, and time of year when the 2nd plot is picked up. Do we want to revise this policy, or clarify it? It's basically handled on a case by case basis and it's possible that's just how it needs to be handled.

It came up because this year we have a gardener at Scio who wants to move from ½ plot to 1 ½ plots. There is space to do this now, but should he be allowed to have more than one full plot indefinitely, even if in a few years we are turning people away from Scio who would rent the half plot? This is complicated by this gardener giving up a half plot at Greenview where demand is high, so I'm inclined to give it to him.

What about more than one plot at multiple sites? Another gardener has a half plot at Matthaei and would like another half plot at CSS.

A more common situation is where the extra plot is picked up in the summer when someone abandons a plot. In this situation, I usually make clear to the gardener picking up the plot that they only can have it for one year. I have also done this in some cases with perennial plots at County Farm. A couple times Sevanne wanted additional space and I told her she could have the use of a perennial plot for free for the season in return for cleaning it up.

Lots & lots of discussion on all the ramifications about how to handle this. The decision was made that as people ask for extra space should be told that it may not be permanent.

Plant Sale

We are receiving advance orders every day. Right now it is 26 advance orders for 512 plants.

@projectgrowgardens.org Email Addresses

I think I've mostly straightened these out. We have a number of group addresses which could be used for committee members communicating with each other, or they should be eliminated.

- County farm site coordinators
- Education committee
- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Operations Committee
- Marketing
- Volunteers
- Plant sale

Individual email addresses (anniversary@, volunteer@) should be forwarded to a single person. Scott is getting anniversary@. We need someone to monitor volunteer@. Is there a volunteer committee?

No decision was made on this.

Training

Joanie and I have been working together on registration and talk or text almost every day. We have divided the gardens between us and we are each doing about half. This continues to work well.

Treasurer's Report

Dave not only gave a complete report, he provided documentation. Thanks Dave!

50th Anniversary

Scott thanks everyone on the committee for the feedback on the Press Release. By Monday (2/14) a final draft will be sent out for approval.

Education Committee

Upcoming classes that are now scheduled:

Tomatoes and Chilis in the Organic Garden

Thursday April 14, 2022

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Royer

The Pillars of Ecosystem Gardening

Thursday May 19, 2022

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Joet

Exploring Eco-Machines for Solving Environmental Problems

Thursday April 28 2022

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Joet

Seed Potatoes, Potato Seed and Sweet Potato Slips

Thursday April 21, 2022

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Royer

Integrated Pest Management

Thursday June 2, 2022

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Royer

Plant Sale

All is well, we got all our seeds & plan to start in March.

Marcella proposed that we give away 100 Project Grow Gold tomato plants of this as a 50th Anniversary Gift. The board approved. The plants will be pulled & placed near the pre-order. We are planning to change the catalog somehow once the committee decides how to change it.

Info Tech

At this time, there is very little progress on a new website. Joanie is waiting to hear back from VOID. Joe (with help) has been unable to get the VOID files uploaded for testing.

Marketing

Joe brought up social media. He volunteered for the committee.

People's Food Coop fundraiser

Ad-hoc committee for this Dan, Royer, Marcella & Joet. Unsure if the application was sent out. (Joanie did arrive at the meeting later & stated she would send tomorrow) We need to meet with the PFC. Dan said we need to promote it for it to be more successful. Including the 50th anniversary to the fundraiser was brought up. Scott volunteered to join the group meeting with the PFC.

Communications/meetings

Set a date/time for a site coordinator meeting (Zoom). It was suggested we do the meeting in March. Kirk will facilitate getting the date & send out the invitation. The agenda will be worked out via an email thread.

New Gardeners Shindig

We will plan to hold a Zoom meeting again this year. Joet will speak/present. Kirk will pick the date (mid to late April).

CF Perennial gardeners

It was suggested that we send the gardener survey results summary to the CF perennial gardeners. Also send out the updated parts of the perennial gardening in the Gardener's Handbook. It was decided to was suggested that follow it up with a Zoom meeting. Possibly get the CF perennial gardeners to have their own meetings to build community & solve problems. Lots of discussion about how to handle the Zoom meeting(s) or possibly moving it outdoors. June was decided as the date for the meeting & maybe move it out. The board will work out the details at a later date.

Need for new PG brochures

Sharon will work on them this month.

Restated Articles of Incorporation

Plan/agenda for Special Membership Meeting on Feb 17th. Lots of discussion on how to handle the Zoom meeting. Royer will run it, Joet will assist. Kirk will send out the final invitation for the actual meeting.

Seed Share

Seed Share inventory is progressing. The projected date to begin accepting applications is around February 15. Downtown Home and Garden is providing the same space as last year for our first order pickup date. That will be Saturday, March 5 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. We're considering a raffle of sorts to kick off the 50th Anniversary Celebration but have not settled on anything specific yet.

Volunteer Service Agreement

Joet brought up the VSAs. These are waivers that should be obtained by whoever is handle the volunteer event & the forms must signed by the volunteers. Joet will set up a meeting/workshop for training on the VSAs & general volunteer events. Much to his dismay, Joe was informed that he volunteered to be on this committee.

Meeting ended at 9:06PM