

Project Grow Board Minutes

October 13th, 2022

Meeting started at 7:45

Board members present:

Joe Schutte

W. Scott Richardson

Sharon Fay

Dave Corsa

Dan Noble

Marcella Trautmann

Suzan Hatch

Deb Nystrom

Annette Zurack

also: Kirk Jones - Managing Director, Joanie Stovall – Managing Director
(in training)

Absent: Jesse Raudenbush, Joet Reoma, Keesa Johnson

Scott Richardson elected President

Joe Schutte elected Vice-President

Dave Corsa re-elected Treasurer

Marcella elected Secretary

Royer turned the meeting over to Scott. September meeting minutes were not available for approval. We will review them & approve them next month.

Manager Director Report (comments in red) **Community Gardens**

West Park

West Park had a rough year this season.

Communication with our site coordinator for West Park has been spotty regarding closing activity. Covid caught up with him in September and he is recovered but still catching up.

Several longtime gardeners had injuries, sabbaticals or long vacations.

Unlike previous years, there is no semi-permanent homeless encampment, but a “living room” with chairs has been set up on the north edge of the

parking lot. Several gardeners report that drug dealers operate out of this area and their customers retreat into the wooded embankment behind the “living room” to use their purchases.

Actions Taken

Joanie talked to Brittany about what was reported to us about drug dealing and use. Brittany called back and relayed that the Parks and Police departments are negotiating who has responsibility for public safety in these areas. Letting them know there are concerns from partner organizations helps push the issue up the priority list. Parks will help collect compost from the gardeners if they deposit it in leaf bags and put the bags near the park entrance on Chapin by Monday, October 17. Fence takedown was completed on Wednesday, October 12. Quite a bit of the garden has been cleaned up for tilling, though there is still more work to be done.

The fencing, stakes, gates, tools and hoses still need to be moved to Airport for the winter. The hoses have not been disconnected from the spigots yet, but everything else is under the tree on the west side of the garden. There are also rolls of chicken wire but these belong to the gardeners - we do not need to move these to Airport.

Joe & Eric volunteered to move the equipment.

End of Year Checking

All the sites need to be checked after closing day to be sure they have been cleaned up and the annual plots are ready to be tilled. Getting all the sites ready matters because Kevin prefers to till multiple sites in a day. I will tell him when most or all of them are ready to go and then he will take care of it,

Would these people be able to check their sites?

Eric – Airport, Hunt, Ellsworth

Pam/Lucy – Greenview

Dave – Lakewood

Dan – Chapel Hill, Food Gatherers

Deb – CSS

Site coordinators – County Farm & Discovery, Matthaei, Northside, AACIL, Leslie

Joe – Scio

Joanie - Clague, Buhr

Kirk- Hillside, Zion
Joanie and Kirk- West Park

Checking means the gardens are cleaned up for the year. For sites which are tilled, it means the garden is ready to be tilled. For perennial plots, it means all tender plants like beans, tomatoes, corn, peppers etc. have been pulled out or cut down. Tall weeds should also be cut down. The organic material can either be cut up and composted in the plot or removed. Piles of organic matter like corn stalks or tomato vines should not be in the plot unless they have been cut up. Stakes and tomato cages that are not in use supporting hardy plants should be pulled out and neatly nested.

If a plot is not cleaned up, tell me the plot number. The gardener won't be able to register for next year unless they contacted me and had a good reason for not cleaning up. So far no one has done this.

Stakes marking annual plots need to be gathered after we know which plots were not cleaned up. Except for West Park and Zion these are stored at the site. I used to pick them up at West Park and Zion and store them at my house but we need to make other arrangements this year, perhaps they can be stored at Airport.

Everyone agreed to check the sites as Kirk listed.

Renz Farm

Kirk was in touch with Michael Vestergaard and he said this:

Yes we are planning on taking the house down this winter, also we are making a parking area ready as you enter the farm of Wagner rd. Also the well at the house will be turned into an irrigation well with a hydrant at it, it is close to your garden plot. You are welcome to start any preparation: fence tilling the soil etc.

Kirk told him we need to first know exactly where the garden will be.

Michael is out of town this week but can meet us next week to finalize the location.

Joe requested that we move the meeting to the 24th. Dan & Eric want to be added to the list of people that will meet.

Treasurer's Report

Report was given at the Annual meeting.

Tech Committee

Joanie requested Annette talk about website development/Wordpress. Annette informed us of having website development experience. Deborah endorsed WordPress.

Volunteer Party

Lots of discussion about whether or not we will have a indoor party. A message will go out to the volunteers seeing how they feel about it. It was requested that we send out lists of our exceptional volunteers.

Matthaei MOU

Scott is working with Matthaei on a Memorandum of Understanding. He was looking for help from anyone with experience with MOUs. Some board members said they would talk to some others with experience & see if they can help.

New Board Member Onboarding

Scott created a list & plans to move forward with a formal onboarding.

Changes to the Bylaws

It was decided that we will have our current Bylaws reviewed. It will be added to a future agenda.

Meeting ended at 9:04PM