

Project Grow Board Minutes

Nov 11th, 2021

Zoom

Meeting began at 7:09 pm

Board members present:

Royer Held

Joe Schutte

Dan Noble

Joanie Stovall

Dave Corsa

Sharon Fay

W. Scott Richardson

Jesse Raudenbush

also: Kirk Jones: Managing Director, Eric Meves

Absent: Joet Reoma

Meeting started at 7:03PM

October board minutes approved

Outreach Report

Kirk reported about the meeting with Jesse, Joet, & TC. Kirk said it was a pleasant meeting & it went very well. TC did a huge amount of work & is in compliance. He is in the process of setting up help when needed in the future.

Royer met with Joet & it went very well. Joet is giving up his two plots.

Eric talked to Karl. Karl may have some physical limitations & he asked for help. He wants to keep both plots for the 2022 as he has plans to move some perennials. It was suggested that we help out in the work day & Eric will talk to him again about it. A lot of discussion about how to handle this whole situation. The consensus was that we work with the gardeners & try to bring to them into compliance.

Sharon will try to contact Nan & Stephanie.

Royer composed a letter to be sent to all the perennial gardeners. The letter will explain efforts for compliance & announce the work day. It will include the garden survey for CF gardeners.

Work party refreshments were approved.

Treasurer

The Treasurer position is open due to Eric resigning. Dave has stepped up & expressed willingness to take the position. He was nominated & elected. Eric will remain on the finance committee and will continue handling financial transactions as Assistant Treasurer.

Board Vacancies

The three vacancies were put off for now.

Insurance

Royer contacted the insurance agent & they suggested that we get coverage for officers & directors. The agent recommended a vendor & they have a policy with a low premium (\$400 a year) if we are approved. Other vendors go much higher premiums.

50th anniversary

All events will have the 50th as a theme. Scott suggested doing interviews with PG gardeners. Joanie will help anniversary activities.

Website Redesign

We discussed what VOID had completed & how the redesign will require more work before launching. Mark, Eric's son, will look & possibly give us an outline & possibly a proposal later. This will be a standing item for future board meetings.

Managing Director Report (copied from report)

Community Gardens

West Park

The fence take down went well! Good turnout of gardeners to do the work, and Joet and I moved everything to Airport. The fence they have now has been used for 10 years. We will probably need to replace one section of fence next year that's under 100'. It would cost about \$80 right now at Tractor Supply.

Fall Tilling

Kevin began tilling Wednesday morning November 10th and hoped to do all of it by the end of the day. **Tilling is all done.**

New County Maintenance Superintendent

Thomas Power is Ed Holley's replacement as Washtenaw County Maintenance Superintendent. Joanie and I met with him on November 10th. We walked through part of the garden but that was not really the focus of the meeting. We spent some time talking about what PG does at County Farm and what the county does. Joanie brought up a number of wishlist items we've had for the County and Thomas was receptive to many of all of them. Trim trees close to the garden to remove shade. The county will be developing a plan to redesign and rebuild the Discovery Garden beds. He said they would make them ADA compliant. This is not something that will happen quickly and will involve many people on the county's side. Short term they will patch up the beds so they are not leaking soil. Look into city compostable pickup at the site (didn't sound likely). Investigate woodchuck control. Possibly adding some fencing to help separate the Discovery Garden from the playground to prevent theft and damage. What Thomas suggested was perhaps using a fence to connect the two sheds and then extend the fence around the sides of the Discovery Garden 10-20 feet. This would not fence out children

from the playground, but they would have to walk around the fence, they couldn't just wander into the garden.

Free Soil Testing from Washtenaw County

Stephen Brown sent me a link to free soil testing being done by Washtenaw County Conservation next week in case we wanted to pass it on to gardeners. There is no newsletter going out so we'd need to send it as a special email. What do you think? A link to what they are doing is here: <https://www.washtenawcd.org/soil-sampling.html>

It was decided to send out a special email.

Jack Johnson Non-Profit event

Dan filled us in on the event that he participated in a couple years ago. Joanie, Scott, & Joe expressed interest in doing this event.

Meeting Ended at 9:12