

**Clinton Community Garden
Steering Committee Meeting**

Meeting held on Zoom platform due to COVID-19 "Pause" Order
June 2, 2020

Meeting called to order: 7:37 pm

Present: F. Sheth, M. Troise, J. Markovich, P. Blejwas, S. Crandall, D. Dempsey, R. Marinaro

Absent: S. Shipley, C. Lafferty, B. Garcia

May 5, 2020 minutes approved prior to meeting via email.

Meeting opened with discussion of S. Shipley's email request to be released, either by resignation or leave of absence, from Steering Committee duties due to COVID-19 isolation. **Moved (SC), seconded (MT): to accept S. Shipley's resignation and release her from Steering Committee obligations, as requested. Motion passed, 5-2 (RM and PB).** Discussion of Shipley's return to committee was tabled until such time that it becomes necessary to consider it.

Committee resolved to accept a brief addendum to the May minutes from DD re: the resignation of J. Sterlin from the Steering Committee in April.

It is established that the current quorum is 6 members (9 divided by 2 = 4.5, + 1 = 5.5, rounded up = 6). SC will submit draft of By-laws clause re: quorum during the next couple of weeks.

Treasurer's report:

1. PB presented current budget (2019/20) and proposed budget (2020/21).
2. **Moved (FS), seconded (RM): to approve proposed budget for 2020/21 as written. Motion passed; budget approved.**

Plot Committee report:

FS reported that 2 plots are open. She has offered plots to the next two names on the list and response is pending. Discussion on whether to make allowance under the current COVID-19 condition and maintain positions on the list for them. Recommended that FS keep moving down the list but hold suspended names with an asterisk.

Volunteer Committees: (Garbage, specifically)

1. J. Greenlaw stepping down from heading the Garbage Committee. RM will send out email to Garbage committee re: finding a replacement on committee for leader.
2. Resolved to allow certain essential committees to have access to Garden during Access times. These committees are Lawns, Compost, Garbage & Recycling, and Sweeping.
3. RM will send out email to pertinent Volunteer Committees to notify them of access plan.

Back Gardeners' Access Protocol:

1. Short discussion on the Back Gardeners' Access Protocol – its plusses and minuses, and whether to extend the dates. Some members pointed out that padlock monitoring coverage is a little thin, but Committee agreed that Protocol is a success, generally, and recommended to extend it into mid-July.
2. Question of front gardeners requesting padlock keys, and whether they need to be distributed more freely. It was agreed to table the discussion until CL is able to participate, as she is Padlock leader.
3. Padlock rules were underscored, with the caution that the padlock must remain locked at all times. There was an incident of the padlock being unlocked late in the evening, and this must not be allowed to occur.

Back Gardeners' Access Protocol: (continued)

4. Email will be going out re: padlock rules and the extension of access to mid-July.
5. Problem of people who sign up for a slot during access hours and then don't show up. Discouragement of this behavior will be included in the email to back/front gardeners.

Garden Checking Account Signatories:

3/4 of the current signatories are no longer on the Steering Committee, so it is somewhat urgent to update that record with the bank (TD Bank). Because of COVID-19, this is almost impossible as most bank branches are closed. SC will go to the open TD branch near Grand Central to see if the bank has some method to handle this during current limitations.

Vacancy on Steering Committee:

1. Question whether replacement members MUST be elected to committee when members leave, or is it not required so long as committee has minimum number of members. By-laws are not clear on this. DD will consult with A. Haas and J. Greenlaw regarding the meaning of the by-laws on this point.
2. Discussion on potential candidates for vacancies, and whether inquiries and requests are in writing or verbally submitted. It was hoped that committee might collect names of candidates during June, and we could vote on them at July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Obsolete Key Holder Boundaries:

DD had a question about the Garden website containing information on Key Holder geographic boundaries, now obsolete due to NYC Parks Department rules. Although this has been updated on the Key Holder Agreement document, the old boundaries may still appear elsewhere on the website. S. Friedman (webmaster) will be notified.

Developing Space behind the bench:

MT wanted to point out the new patch of lawn behind the bench and adjacent to her front bed and that of S. Shipley. It seems to allow enough space for her to be able to water and tend to her plot, however concern exists re: boundaries.

Meeting was interrupted suddenly by technical conflict and did not resume: 9:06 pm