

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting

Venue: Zoom

Date: 20 March 2024, 7pm.

Present: Homar Barcena, Andrew Begg, Mark Kellogg, Clarence Klugh, John MacKay, Mauricio Marron, Richard O'Brien, Tony Waag.

Absent: Foram Sheth.

In the absence of a Chair, the Steering Committee agreed by consensus for Andrew Begg to preside over the meeting for the purposes of item 1 of the agenda under Article III, section 9 of the Bylaws.

1) Election of officers:

Under Article IV, Section 2 of the By-Laws, the Steering Committee is required to elect its office holders at its first meeting after the Annual Meeting.

The Committee agreed to elect as Co-Chairs Clarence Klugh and John MacKay.

The Committee agreed to elect Andrew Begg as Record Keeper.

The Committee agreed to re-elect Homar Barcena as Treasurer.

The Committee agreed to leave the Coordinator Volunteer position vacant pending expansion of the Committee.

The Committee noted that the Bylaws do not specifically provide for Co-Chairs, but nor do they explicitly prohibit it. The Committee noted that electing Co-Chairs would assist in burden sharing for a volunteer position that demands a lot of hours. It would also ensure a greater degree of consultation would be required and therefore promote greater transparency.

The Committee noted that the decision to elect Co-Chairs would be referred to the broader garden membership for their views and approval as part of discussions around a package of amendments to the Bylaws. If approved, the Bylaws should be amended to reflect this change of practice.

At the conclusion of this agenda item the Co-Chairs assumed the role of presiding over the meeting.

2) Request for Special Meeting

The Committee noted that on 15 March it had received a call for a Special Meeting under Article II, Section 5 of the Bylaws. The call was signed by 25 Garden members, which being greater than one-tenth of the Garden membership, surpasses the threshold required under the Bylaws.

The Committee noted that the email requested a Special Meeting to be held on March 26 at 7pm. Article II, section 5, however, requires written notice to be given to the entire garden membership at least ten days in advance. The 15 March email was not distributed to all Garden members, so did not in itself constitute the requisite ten days written notice.

The Steering Committee noted that 26 March was only 7 days away, so it did not have enough time to issue its own notice to all Garden members to meet the ten days requirement.

The Committee therefore agreed to schedule the Special Meeting on April 2nd at 7pm to allow it to issue proper notice to the full Garden membership. This required a notice of the Special Meeting to be issued to all Garden members on or before 23 March.

The Committee agreed that the Record Keeper would draft the notice of the Special Meeting immediately and send it to the Co-Chairs to issue to the Garden membership as soon as possible, and before 23 March.

The Record Keeper agreed to contact Fountain House to arrange for a room, and to organize a Zoom connection for those who wish to attend online.

3) Draft action plan to restore confidence in the Clinton Community Garden

The Committee had before it a draft proposal to address a range of issues and concerns that were expressed by Garden members at the annual meeting.

The Committee agreed that the draft should be referred to the Garden membership for their views and input.

The Committee agreed to put the draft on the agenda for the Special Meeting.

4) Soil

The Committee noted that the soil/amendment delivery date needed to be scheduled urgently.

The Committee agreed to delegate the Treasurer to check with past Committee members on the status of the order, and to identify a Garden member to arrange for a delivery date and organized volunteers to receive the delivery.

The Committee requested the Treasurer to report back to the Committee by email as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned.