

## Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting

Venue: Zoom

Date: 11 April 2024, 7pm

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

Absent: Tony Waag

### 1) Approval of Special Meeting minutes:

The Committee approved the draft minutes of the Special Meeting.

### 2) Grant renewal

The Committee discussed the renewal process for grants and confirmed that Mark Dieffenbacher had sent out the grant letter in January. Green Acres will inform the Garden in May or June on the outcome of the request.

### 3) Financials

The Treasurer presented the draft income statement and draft budget for 2024-2025. It was based on last year's budget with adjustments for inflation on expected expenses. Assuming that this year's income is the same as last year, the increased expenses would be a projected loss of \$1,240.

The Committee discussed options to either cut expenditure or increase income to ensure that the Garden breaks even. One option was to raise the price of the honey sold from the beehives. The Committee concluded this would not be a reliable means to increase revenue, however, because there was a loss from the honey last year, and the price point was already quite high. Raising it could in fact decrease sales.

The Committee concluded a more reliable option to increase income would be to increase the cost of keys to the Garden. At \$15 each, they could be raised to \$25 and still be seen as good value so unlikely to depress sales.

=> The Committee agreed to raise the price of keys to \$25.

=> The Committee requested the Treasurer to adjust the draft budget and report back to the Committee by email.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of cutting the amount of money budgeted for beekeeping. The status of the current contract with the beekeeper was not ready to hand, and the Committee noted in addition that Green Thumb was no longer encouraging the use of European honeybees in New York gardens, with native pollinators being the preferred option.

=> The Committee agreed to return to the question of the bees at a subsequent meeting for a broader discussion that included the current contract (and costs) of the existing hives, and whether and when the Garden might consider converting to native pollinators.

=> The Committee noted that this discussion would merit the input of the wider garden membership.

The Committee noted that the bulletin boards are dilapidated and need to be replaced.

=> The Committee referred a question to the Treasurer as to whether the existing line item in the budget for the gate and fence would cover this expense, or whether a new line item needed to be factored in. The Committee requested a report back at its next meeting.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Treasurer submitted a revised budget with the following changes:

1. Income- Keys priced at \$25
2. Income -Honey priced at \$25 to break even with production costs
3. Expense - added soil amendment day delivery tip \$100
4. Expense - removed the cost of soil amendment since Lisa confirmed it's been paid
5. Expense - budgeted 2 x \$1500 for front and back bulletin boards

With these changes projected income is \$24,200, and projected expenses are \$22,900.

=> On 22 April the Committee endorsed the budget by consensus by email vote.

#### 4) Volunteer Coordinator

=> The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Lisa Ciccheti as Volunteer Coordinator.

#### 5) Soil delivery date

=> May 4 is the soil delivery date for this season. The Committee agreed to follow up after the meeting with the volunteer coordinator to plan for the delivery date.

#### 6) Monthly meeting dates:

=> The Committee agreed to propose the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm in order to have a regular meeting schedule.

=> The Committee agreed that it would endeavor to circulate an agenda a week in advance, with items inscribed in order of priority.

=> The Committee agreed to set a time limit of two hours per meeting and to endeavor to stick to time allocations for each item.

=> The Committee agreed to return to in-person meetings beginning with its May meeting, providing space can be secured at Fountain House.

The Committee noted that Fountain House has been approached with a request to return to using it as a venue for regular in-person meetings, but a response has not been received yet.

7) Request for nominations:

=> The Committee agreed to send out a request for Garden members to volunteer to take up Committee positions, with a request for nominations to be received by 30 April.

6) Future agenda items

The Committee agreed to return in future meetings to the following items:

=> Rat control methods.

=> Future of the beehives (as discussed above).

=> Provision of training on non-confrontational communication and de-escalation so garden members have guidance on how to deal with difficult members of the public.

=> Off-boarding procedures for former steering committee members.

=> Water catchment.

=> Suggestion from the Garden to plant the tree boxes in front of the garden with natives that are available free.

The meeting was adjourned.