

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee Meeting

Venue: Zoom

Date: 21 May 2024, 7pm

Present: Homar Barcena, Andrew Begg, Lisa Cicchetti, Cindi Clark, Clarence Klugh, John MacKay, Richard O'Brien, Nicole Siani.

Absent: Mauricio Marron

1) New Steering Committee members and reminder for volunteers to fill open seats.

The Committee has received a nomination for an additional member. The Committee agreed to do remind the membership there is an open call for nominations to the vacant seats on the committee (four remain vacant), and to request additional nominations. The Committee agreed to vote on admitting new members at its next meeting.

2) Update on plot renewals

A small number of plots were not renewed, and these were made available to the swap list. The swap list has now cleared and the vacant plots are in the process of being offered to those on the waitlist.

3) 4th of July

The Committee had a first discussion on preparations for the annual 4th of July garden party. The following action points were agreed to begin the planning process:

- The Committee agreed to reach out to last year's coordinators to learn from their experience.
- A stocktaking of supplies left over from last year is needed, with the bins in the shed needing itemised. Lisa agreed to seek a volunteer to do this.
- Lisa agreed to reach out to garden volunteers to ask if any of them are prepared to become leads on various aspects of the planning and preparations. She will ask if those with prior experience will do so again, or if they can at least share their knowledge.
- The Committee agreed to explore how best to acknowledge and thank the donors. Clarence will look into using the garden Instagram account for this purpose.
- The Committee agreed to look into the possibility of hosting the party without using any single-use plastics. Lisa will follow up to provide the Committee with examples of compostable utensils etc via email.
- Cindi and Nicole agreed to investigate options for donating any leftover food at the end of the day.

3) By-laws

The Committee noted that it has included in its proposal to the garden membership at the Special General meeting to update the garden bylaws. The Committee requested the record keeper produce a first draft of updates for its consideration as a basis for consultation with the garden membership.

The Committee discussed the format of meetings, and agreed that the pre-pandemic practice of meetings at Fountain House would resume. Also, per pre-pandemic practice, Garden members who have an issue to raise on the agenda can email the Committee in advance to request to present their item in person to the following meeting.

4) Debrief on 9th Ave festival

The Committee was debriefed on the garden's participation in the 9th Avenue food festival. Sales of t-shirts, plants and honey went very well, with a revenue of approximately \$3,000. The Treasurer had some final accounting to do before finalizing the final earnings figure, and will report back to the next meeting.

The Committee voted thanks to the volunteers who manned the sales table on both 9th Avenue and in the garden. Their efforts generated a lot of public interest in the garden.

5) Non-violent communications workshop

Anne Haas will host a workshop on non-violent communication on June 8 from 10:30-11:30am (with June 9th as the rain date).

The workshop is for all garden members and is intended to help them in communicating with the public, especially when needing to communicate garden rules, or closing the garden in the evenings if people need to be asked to exit.

Lisa will forward wording for the announcement, to be emailed this coming Saturday.

The Committee agreed to fund some refreshments for the workshop.

6) Other events

The Committee received a debrief on two other events that we held this month. Steve Roylance, a former gardener, organized a bird walk on Saturday the 18 May. And earlier in the month three middle school classes from De LaSalle Academy, comprising about 50 students in total over three visits, completed an art project where the students used the plants and flowers in the garden as subjects. The art teacher has sent a nice thank you note to the garden.

7) Front allotment budget allocations

Lisa presented by email prior to the meeting a proposed budget allocation per garden bed for the front garden. The Committee agreed to adopt the proposed budget.

8) Rats

The Committee agreed to investigate options for reducing the rat population in the garden. There was an agreement that a toxic solution is not desirable.

John agreed to contact an exterminator that specializes in extermination with carbon dioxide gas.

The Committee noted that more than one solution would likely be needed, and one other solution is to reduce overgrowth in untended plots, and hiding places along the back wall of the rear garden.

The Committee agreed to return to this issue at its next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm