

## Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee minutes

June 4, 2024 7pm

Fountain House

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

Absent: Homar Barcena,

### 1) Old Business:

Key prices: Lisa had suggested adding a proviso to the wording of the bulletin board to contact the Committee if the price presents a hardship.

The Committee saw the need for some kind of accommodation, but views were expressed that it would be difficult to administer.

The Committee agreed to add a sentence to the notice: "Any questions or concerns please contact the Committee" The Committee can respond to queries on a case by case.

Honey pricing: The cost of the honey is expensive, but people are prepared to pay a higher cost to support the garden as a fundraiser.

The Committee agreed not to change the price mid-season, but to reassess at the end of the season based on the sales volume.

Lock codes: The lock codes in the shed will be changed soon to ensure that only current committee members have them, and they will be changed annually as the Committee members turn over.

### 2) 4<sup>th</sup> of July planning:

Lisa proposed to send a message to the garden membership asking for lead volunteers to step up. The email can inform the members that with volunteers an event can be put on, but if there is not enough interest we did not need to put on the event.

The response from the membership will tell us whether to go ahead or not. The Committee agreed to request responses to the call for volunteer coordinators by the end of the coming weekend.

Clarence agreed to send out the email to the membership.

### 3) Beekeeping

The Committee recalled that garden members at the annual meeting had expressed unhappiness over the cost of the beekeeping contract. Richard proposed to address this by creating a request for proposals for the next beekeeping contract so the garden could set up a formal competitive process.

The Committee examined the draft responsibilities and duties and requested an extra duty to be added to respond to any incidents where the bees swarm. The Committee agreed to change the reference to “managing the surrounding land” to “...surrounding area”. The Committee agreed to move the training bullet point into a second “optional” category of responsibilities.

The Committee agreed that the decision should be based not on price alone, but a combination of price plus experience and qualifications.

The Committee agreed to the request for proposals to be issued as amended.

### 4) Treasury report

The Treasurer presented the financial statements for May. Key sales were \$1200, with honey earning \$300, plant sales \$475, and an additional \$40 in donations. The Ninth Avenue Food Fair resulted in sales of \$2,777. This is a good revenue for the month and matches the amount earned last year. Green Thumb has awarded the Garden a grant of \$3,500 (but we are still waiting for the transfer).

In terms of expenses, these are \$688 for the month, and include the purchase price of the plants that were sold at the Fair, plus assorted sundries such as trash bags and the fee for the use of the Square app. There are some small expenses still to come in for the month.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s report. All agreed.

### 5) Plan for plot inspections

John recommended that we do two plot inspections a month with a group of 4 gardeners to ensure different experience and gardening knowledge. The team can walk through noting whether there are rear plots that look untidy or overgrown. Those that need attention can receive emails from the Garden reminding them to attend to their plots.

A proposal was made to do the first inspection on Wednesday 12 June at 7pm. This was agreed.

### 6) Plot assignments – how to handle plot complaints

John raised a question on how the Committee should handle complaints by a plot holder that neighboring plots were overgrowing into their space. The Committee agreed that in such situations an email reminder would be sent to the offending party to keep their plot from growing over into their neighbors.

### 7) Rats

John spoke to a representative from Urban Pest Management about their carbon monoxide method of rat control as a humane method of reducing the rat population. He produces the gas naturally and pumps it into the rat’s burrows. John has been in contact and is waiting to hear back.

Ivy is a particular encouraging habitat for rats and will be part of the plot inspections because it becomes very easily overgrown.

8) New Steering Committee candidate

Homar moved a new candidate for the Steering Committee at the previous meeting, and it was tabled for discussion– Tatiana Pena.

Lisa also moved a new candidate for the Committee to consider – Naomi Haber.

The Committee discussed the bios of both candidates and voted unanimously for both to join the Steering Committee.

Lisa moved a second motion to set up a consultation meeting with senior gardeners to ensure that we could continue to gain from their experience. This was agreed.

The Steering Committee again reminds members that there are two vacant seats on the Committee and encourages garden members to volunteer or nominate other members.

9) Agenda items for next month:

- Volunteer report from Lisa.