

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee minutes

Venue: Zoom

Date: 7 January 2025, 7pm.

Present: Homar Barcena, Andrew Begg, Clarence Klugh, John MacKay, Mauricio Marron, Richard O'Brien, Nicole Siani.

Absent: Naomi Haber, Catherine Lafferty, Tatiana Pena

1) Membership list and notice for annual meeting:

The Committee discussed the need to update and review the garden membership list ahead of the annual meeting. The Committee agreed on the need to ensure the list of voting members is accurate, particularly regarding the volunteer hours requirement for voting rights.

The Committee agreed to work on this task during January. The record keeper will begin the work and will seek the assistance of other Committee members as needed.

The Committee also agreed that as part of the notice of the annual meeting, volunteers would be asked to verify that their hours were correctly logged.

To give people time to verify that the volunteer hours are correct, the Committee agreed that the notice of the annual meeting would be given one month in advance on Tuesday 4 February.

The Committee agreed that the annual meeting would be scheduled for Tuesday 4 March.

The Record Keeper agreed to communicate this date to Fountain House to secure the room.

2) Election procedure:

Committee recalled that the voting turnout from last year's electronic ballot was nearly double the previous year, so the Committee agreed to retain the same voting procedure that was employed in 2024. Clarence agreed to reactivate the voting buddy account.

Committee also agreed that at least two Committee members would scrutinize the email list for delivery of ballots to ensure that it matched those eligible to vote, and to did not contain duplicates.

Committee requested those appointed to the Committee mid-term, if they wished to serve beyond the election, to submit a bio. A request for nominations for Steering Committee membership will also be included with the notice of the meeting.

3) Report from the Treasurer:

The Treasurer presented his report for December. Expenses for the month included the Mailchimp account fee and the Steering Committee dinner. There was no income for the month.

The treasurer was beginning to prepare the budget for the 2025 season and will present it at the next meeting. The Treasurer's report was approved.

The Committee noted that the Treasurer had presented to the Committee by email between meetings a recommendation on how much cash the Garden should retain in its checking account, with the remainder to be moved into CD's. The Committee approved the Treasurer's recommendation and requested that the investment be made during January. John agreed to visit the bank for this purpose.

4) 2025 plot renewals

The Committee agreed to begin the plot renewal process for 2025. A subcommittee was formed comprised to begin the process of mailing out plot renewal forms during the upcoming weekend, with a target date of mailing the forms by the end of January.

The Committee agreed to discuss canvassing interest among existing plot holders for the vacant front plot, in consultation with the front plot coordinator. John will contact the front plot coordinator to seek her input.

5): Benches:

Nicole agreed to draft a proposal to seek a volunteer carpenter or joiner to source wood to replace the damaged parts of the Garden benches and to undertake repairs, to be emailed to the garden email list.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.