

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee minutes

Venue: Fountain House and Zoom

Date: 4 February 2025, 7:45pm.

Present: Homar Barcena, Andrew Begg, Naomi Haber, Clarence Klugh, Catherine Lafferty, Mauricio Marron, Nicole Siani.

Absent: Richard O'Brien, Tatiana Pena.

1) Financials:

The Treasurer presented his monthly report for January. There was no significant spending this month (there was only one small reimbursement for the front garden) and no income.

The Treasurer reported that we only have two check signers, and requested that we add another to ensure the ability to write checks when one signer is unavailable. The Committee agreed to add a third signer, but also agreed to wait until after the annual meeting to ensure that the additional signer would still be on the Steering Committee.

2) By-laws:

The Record Keeper presented to the Committee proposed changes to the Garden's by-laws. The proposed changes fell into three broad categories: First, changes required by law to ensure that the by-laws are consistent with the updated New York Not-for-Profit Law. Second, changes required to ensure consistency with the license with Green Thumb. Both of these categories are mandatory changes. Third, changes that are proposed to align the by-laws with modern best practice. For these the Record Keeper based the proposed amendments on best practices highlighted by Green Thumb in its handbook, and also compared to the by-laws of other not-for-profits. This third category of changes are optional.

The Steering Committee worked through the proposed changes in detail and provided views to the Record Keeper, requesting adjustments and amending some of the proposals.

The Committee noted that under the by-laws as currently written, it is the Steering Committee that has the power to amend the by-laws. Nonetheless, in the interests of transparency, the Steering Committee agreed in principle that the revised set of proposed amendments should be sent to the broader garden membership for comments.

3) Special Steering Committee meeting:

The Committee agreed to schedule a special meeting on Tuesday 11 February at 7:30pm to organize the garden's annual meeting and the election for the next Steering Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30pm.