

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee minutes

Venue: Fountain House and Zoom

Date: 5 August 2025, 7pm.

Present: Homar Barcena, Andrew Begg, Naomi Haber, Clarence Klugh, Catherine Lafferty, Mauricio Maron, Richard O'Brien, Nicole Siani.

Absent: Tatiana Pena

1) By-Laws update:

Andrew gave an update on the drafting process for the by-laws. One last element is being drafted based on feedback and proposals from garden members, which is the front bed allocation procedures.

2) Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented his monthly report.

The Committee noted that key and honey sales were progressing well this summer. The introduction of the new online store enables members of the public to access the store via a QR code, and then to input their information and sign a key holder agreement on their phones, rather than filling out a form, which requires manual entry by a volunteer at a later date.

The Committee thanked Homar for his work in creating the online store, and requested that he prepare a step by step guide for volunteers running the key sales sessions on how to work the store.

3) Scaffolding update:

The building on the east side of the garden is undergoing some maintenance to the wall facing the garden, with the bricks due to be repointed. The building management has informed us that they will need to erect scaffolding and a sidewalk shed. This will affect some plots along that wall. The Committee is in discussion with the building to see if we can protect those plots.

Clarence has also reached out to Green Thumb to ask if they have any guidance on how to protect the garden while the scaffoldings is up, and during the process of erecting and disassembling the scaffolding. He will report back to a future meeting.

4) Plot walk through and plot assignments

The Committee agreed that Clarence and Nikki would undertake a plot inspection walk through on 7 August.

The Committee noted that there was one outstanding plot assignment from this season - the person on the waiting list that had been assigned plot C31 has no phone or email registered on the waiting list. The Committee agreed to send a certified letter to the postal address on file with a response deadline of August 12, with the plot to be offered to the next person on the waiting list if there is no response.

5) Request for permission to take photographs

Clarence reported that a nature photographer had requested permission to take photographs in the garden. This was approved on the basis that the photographs be provided to the Garden free of charge.

6) Request for live performance

The Committee agreed to a request by an amateur classical music quartet to hold a one hour free performance in the garden, with dates to be approved at a later point by the Committee by email.

7) Tomato plant fungal virus

The Committee has been informed that a fungal virus is spreading amongst tomato plants in the back garden plots. All infected plants need to be disposed of in the brown bins. Clarence agreed to send out an email to plot holders requesting prompt action.

The Committee agreed to contact the Shed Maintenance Committee to request that all of the shed tools be cleaned to prevent further spread of the tomato plant fungus, using an ecologically safe disinfectant. It was agreed that Cindy Clark and Anne Haas should also be consulted on appropriate remedial actions.

8) Next Committee meeting

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting will be rescheduled from September 2 to September 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.