

Clinton Community Garden Steering Committee minutes

Venue: Zoom

Date: 4 November 2025, 7pm.

Present: Andrew Begg, Naomi Haber, Clarence Klugh, Catherine Lafferty, Mauricio Maron, Richard O'Brien, Tatiana Pena.

Absent: Homar Barcena, Nicole Siani.

1) Scaffolding update:

The Chair reported to the Committee that he did walk through the day before with Green Thumb in preparation for the erection of the scaffolding. Clarence inserted markers into the affected plots to demonstrate where the scaffolding poles will go.

The construction company reported that they have secured their construction permit for the scaffolding, but they have not yet received it. The permitting delays have created a risk that the scaffolding may be up longer than estimated to complete the work.

The job was originally projected to take three weeks, but it cannot be done when temperature is under 50 degrees, because the grouting will not set. So the completion date will be temperature dependent, and if the temperatures drop consistently below 50 degrees in the next three weeks, the work may not start until the spring.

In the meantime, Green Thumb will provide a special tarp to protect the soil. The material is breathable to ensure soil health, but will protect the soil from debris from the wall.

Clarence confirmed that the scaffolding will not extend as far as the composting bins.

2) Garden gate lock update

Catherine has been coordinating the fix to the lock on the garden front gate. She reported to the Committee that over the summer the lock has become increasingly unreliable. The Garden's regular locksmith has been called out four times over the past few months to adjust the lock when garden members have been locked inside.

For a permanent fix, however, a special long cylinder needed to be ordered that enables the lock mechanism to be replaced without needing to change keys. It took some time to arrive, but it was finally replaced last week. The gate is now in working order, and the existing keys will continue to work.

Because of the special order, the fix was an expensive one (approximately \$1,000), but we were able to cover this from an emergency approval from the Green Acre grant.

3) Pollinator update

The packets of pollinator seed mix have been given to the lawn committee for planting this fall in the rough patch of lawn that has struggled in the past few years.

4) Garden Leak update:

Green Thumb had a look at the water system during their visit last week. It is still not clear where the leak is coming from. The Chair of the Steering Committee has contacted two of the senior gardeners to tap their institutional knowledge of where the water pipes are laid out in the garden, so we can coordinate with a plumber

5) Financial report:

The Treasurer presented the financial report for both September and October.

6) New Compost Bins:

The Committee reviewed a request from the compost committee to approve new compost bins. The committee had been approached by a not-for-profit called Big ReUse, who had designed a rat-proof composting bin. They were offering to provide them free of charge to community gardens, including installation. There was some time pressure, however, because Big ReUse only had a few bins left, and would be fully committed to another large project later in the fall.

The Committee agreed to endorse, the request from the composting committee and approve the replacement of the composting bins, subject to the following provisions:

- The composting committee was requested to provide information on the size of the bins and their positioning in the garden as soon as possible;
- The approval was conditional on the new bins not blocking access to the garden shed or the path;
- The approval was conditional on the foundation of the new composting bins being pavers that are also provided by Big ReUse, and not concrete. No approval for pouring a concrete foundation was provided.
- The composting committee is encouraged to take the opportunity of removing the existing composting bins to take rat mitigation measures, in cooperation with Parks Dept and the garbage committee.

7) Honey sale

The Committee noted that unlike last year, the garden has several boxes of honey left over at the end of the key and honey sales season. While we have sold a similar quantity to last year, this year's harvest was larger, so there are jars remaining.

The committee agreed to discount the remaining jars and to have a honey sale to try to sell out the remaining stock. The date for this is tentatively set for the weekend of 15/16 November, weather depending.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.