

WOODBURY COMMUNITY GARDENS ASSOCIATION

Board of Trustees Meeting
February 16th, 2015 7:00 pm
Location: 208 Cabot Court, Deptford, NJ

Minutes

Attendees:

Amélie Harris-McGeehan
Rich McGeehan
Karena de Virginy
Marge de Virginy
Sheril Billings
Daniel Reddin

The meeting started at 7:10 PM.

Opening Remarks

– Amélie Harris-McGeehan

Amélie began the meeting with a quote from Trowel and Error; “One of my greatest joys is an early morning walk in the garden.” She suggested that we start every meeting on a positive note.

Thirty-three days until Spring!

Old Business

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting - 2/3/15

– Karena de Virginy

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Final Approval of Updated By-Laws

– Karena de Virginy

The By-laws were signed by each member of the Board. Since Tracey was not in attendance, Karena and Marge will make an appointment with her so that she can sign as well.

It was agreed that a signed copy of the By-laws will then be made available to the gardeners on the March 28th Garden Clean-Up meeting. Also, Karena will post the by-laws on the website.

Review of Final Gardeners' Checklist **– Rich McGeehan and Sheril Billings**

The Gardeners' Checklist that Rich composed and Sheril printed was reviewed and discussed. This Checklist would be distributed at the New Gardeners Sign-up Meeting on February 28th and sent to the returning gardeners as well. Rich explained that the items on the checklist actually referred to conditions of the contract, but were phrased in the form of questions. The idea is to remind the gardeners that if any of the conditions are not being met, the Site Coordinator is to be contacted so that he can aid the gardener to remedy the deficiency. According to the contract, if the non-compliant gardener does not contact the Site Coordinator regarding any difficulties he or she may be having in complying with the conditions of the contract, the Site Coordinator would inform the Board who would then decide what action would be taken regarding said gardener's non-compliance. Each deficiency would be reviewed by the Board on a case by case basis. As such, no set time limit would be placed on when the deficiency would be corrected.

In order to further remind the gardeners of the conditions of the contract that they have agreed to, a copy of the Gardeners' Checklist list will be laminated and posted in the shed at the Garden.

Final Disposition of Proposal to Keep Beehives on Grounds of the Garden **– Marge de Virginy**

Marge included in each Board member's packet, a summary of the inquiry made to the Garden regarding the keeping of beehives, the reasons for the denial of this request and the response sent to Melissa Khalil, who made this inquiry.

Review of Upcoming Garden Events - New Gardeners Sign-Up **– Karena de Virginy and Marge de Virginy**

Karena and Marge reported that the flyers had been placed in the Library and City Hall as promised.

Report on Progress of "Things to Do" List (before garden officially opens) **– Marge de Virginy, Sheril Billings and Amélie Harris-McGeehan**

Marge submitted for the Board's signatures a thank you letter to Lowe's for the donation of the Children's Bench.

Sheril had agreed to make some signs for the Garden regarding surveillance in the Garden in order to deter poaching. It was decided Sheril would make the signs out of wood and would hand-paint the verbiage. They would be posted throughout the garden before planting begins.

New Business

Discussion about Flower Power Fundraising

– Daniel Reddin

Daniel Reddin, Woodbury City Councilman, suggested the Board look into using Flower Power Fundraising as a way to raise some money for the Garden. He brought along several brochures for review. The way it would work is that an account could be set up with the company, who would then set up a web page for the WCGA on the company's site. A link to this page could be given to anyone interested in purchasing the items available for sale, which are bulbs for numerous flowering plants. When one purchases an item, half of the cost of the item would be set aside for the Garden and sent to the organization when the campaign is completed. The cost of shipping the items to the purchaser would not be included in this.

It was agreed by the Board that this was a good way to raise some money for the organization. Marge said she would review all the materials Daniel presented, look into setting up the required account, and then report back to the Board before the New Gardeners Sign Up meeting with more details, including how long the campaign could last and how the Garden would get paid from Flower Power.

Once the account was finalized, flyers could then be distributed to all gardeners and anyone else interested in purchasing plants in this way. In addition, the link would be added to the WCGA page on the City of Woodbury, the WCGA website, and the WCGA Facebook page.

Concerns regarding New Facebook Page for WCGA

– Daniel Reddin and Karena de Virginy

Daniel and Karena discussed the disposition of the WCGA Facebook page. According to Daniel, if one is to set up a community page in Facebook, it must first be connected to one's personal page. The problem that has arisen is that no one who is currently with the WCGA has access to the previous WCGA Facebook page in order to update it. As a result, Karena set up a new Facebook page for the Garden and the corresponding, connected community page. The name for both of these pages is the same, Woodbury

Community Gardens Association. It was agreed though that having a personal page for the Garden could be dangerous and that only the community page is what is needed.

While at the meeting, Daniel and Karena tried to search for the previous Facebook page about the WCGA, but to no avail. It was believed that it had already been taken down. Daniel said he would contact someone it was believed may have had a connection with this previous page to confirm this.

Then Daniel and Karena changed the name on the person WCGA page to the fictitious name applied the strict privacy rules. The community page would continue to have the name of WCGA. This way when WCGA is searched on FB only the community page would be the result.

It was also decided that Daniel would be included as an administrator on the Facebook page as well as Karena and that the current password information would be kept with the organization's official records.

Plans for New Gardeners Sign-up Meeting – Amélie Harris-McGeehan

Marge reported that the large conference room in the Library has been reserved for this meeting. It was decided this would be conducted in much the same way that the returning gardeners sign-up was back in November. Since the large room will be utilized this time, each board Member could assist the new Gardeners as they came in, in signing up, i.e, reviewing and executing the contract, executing the Hold Harmless form, choosing their plot and accepting payment for their plot. A discussion ensued regarding whether potential gardeners had been sufficiently informed that the preferred form of payment was by check. Marge pointed out that while it did not say this on the flyers, the flyers did provide the WCGA website for any questions. Daniel suggested that if the gardener came without any payment, they could possibly pay online with their bank's bill paying function. It would be difficult though to follow up at the meeting to confirm that payment had been made.

It was decided that cash or check would be accepted as payment and that if a new gardener came to the meeting without payment, they would be given a week to get that payment to us and could then pick their plot at that time.

Action Items:

Karena will call Bill Sherwood who was on the waiting list, but did not provide any information other than his phone number, to remind him about the gardeners sign up meeting.

Sheril will submit her plan for the surveillance signs for the Garden and then post the signs at the Garden next month.

Karena will have a copy of the Gardeners' Checklist laminated so that it can be placed in the shed.

Karena will make copies of the Gardeners' Checklist to be distributed at the New Gardeners Sign-Up meeting on February 28.

Karena will send copies of the Gardeners' Checklist to all returning gardeners.

Karena will make copies of the contract and Hold Harmless form for the upcoming New Gardeners Sign-Up meeting on February 28.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Submitted by:

Karena de Virginy
Secretary