

Woodbury Community Gardens Association
General Meeting
September 20, 2014
Minutes

Attendees:

Amelie

Amelie started the meeting by thanking the all the gardeners for their help and contributions throughout the years. In particular, she thanked Rich who had assembled all the hoses, kept them all working, fixed all the leaks, along with various maintenance issues.

Amelie then thanked several others for their work throughout the year, who, unfortunately would be stepping down from their respective positions, leaving those positions open. Emani was not present at meeting but played a very important role as Site Coordinator, having reshaped certain parts of the garden over the course of the last twelve months. Jay Spellman was thanked for his work as Secretary. Finally, Donna Blocher, Treasurer, was a thanked for her research and phone calls along the lines of the finances and budget. The position of Assistant Director was also open.

Thanks was also given to those that helped maintain the garden. City councilwoman Tracey Parker was thanked for her work as the liaison between the Township of Woodbury and the Community Garden.

Other issues that were discussed were that of the beetles and various animals that had damaged certain crops. Linda Ennis mentioned that her late summer plantings were damaged by some of these pests.

Motions were made to elect Karena de Virginy as secretary, Rich McGeehan as site coordinator, and Sheril Billings as assistant director.

Donna Blocher, Treasurer, gave her report about the budget. She made it known that prior to this year, there was no insurance for the WCGA. Due to the recent vandalism and having children walk through the garden, those matters, as well as being vulnerable to further damage to the garden, were discussed by the Board of Trustees and it was decided that a liability insurance policy was a necessary expense. Due to Donna's research and phone calls in trying to find a policy that would fit the garden's needs, , on August 26, the WCGA was able to acquire a policy which was for 86% of the amount of money that the WCGA took in. WCGA was then insured for \$1,000,000, and the city of Woodbury would be insured as well.

Donna then discussed the budget, which was mailed out to all of the gardeners. The estimated budget for the 2015-2016 season went from being \$925 to \$1085. This increase is due to the Executive Board recommending that the fee structure for the 2015-2016 season be raised to 40¢ per square foot for each plot. With this new increase would help cover the estimated operating expenses and the \$160 that was used to repay the \$504.50 that was borrowed from the 501(c)3 and Emergency Reserves to pay for the recently acquired liability insurance policy. The liability insurance was not at all addressed, anticipated, or budgeted in the last end-of-year meeting. In addition to the \$160, there is now \$245.50 in the Emergency Reserves, bringing the total to \$405.50. While the \$405.50 is to be saved for intended use, the \$245.50 must stay in the Emergency Reserve. The \$160 can be distributed to the Emergency Reserves and 501(c)3 or placed in one or the other. In addition to the \$925 set aside for the plot fees, the only other spendable money will be that of the Liquidity, which is \$200. This brings the total to \$1125, which is to be distributed for operating use when called for throughout the 2015-2016 gardening season. In addition, the \$925 first to cover operating use costs, any monies left in Liquidity at the end of the 2015-2016 season can be used for the 2016-2017 gardening season. It may also be used for any one of the Reserves to help them replenish at a faster rate.

Since Donna has expressed interest in stepping down as Treasurer, Marge

de Virginy said she would consider taking this over. She and Donna will speak more about this further.

Sometime in November, letters will be sent out to each of the gardeners, inviting them back to the community garden next year. The gardeners will be asked if they would like to keep the same plot. It has been decided that anyone who would like to sign up for a plot to pay in the form of a check only. This will make things easier for the Treasurer as well as the bank.

The idea of having raised beds was brought to attention for those that would like one or cannot handle having to maintain a plot at ground level.

The last issue that was addressed was the cleaning out of each of the plots. Any and all vegetation should be deposited into the compost pile. Everything else should be put back from where they came or taken home. All wood borders and the four corner blocks can be left as is.