

Grand Lakes Green Committee

Meeting Date: January 14, 2018, 4-5:30pm

Committee Members in Attendance: Leigh Anne Goerland, Nazim Guendil, Julie Bush
+ 2 residents attended the meeting (Ivan Galindo and Cathy Whiteside)

Meeting Minutes

Old Business:

Community Garden:

The committee discussed future plans for the community garden and agreed to bring the following strawman to the Board for feedback:

- Dedicate ½ of the beds as “open” and ½ of the beds as “reservation”.
 - In the open beds any resident can plant and any resident can pick what has been planted. Residents may dabble in gardening, teach their kids to garden, and enjoy what others have planted.
 - In the reservation beds, only the resident who reserved the bed may plant and pick.
 - The ratio of open/reservation beds can be changed in the future, as we observe how residents use the garden.
- Reservations would be for 1 season at a time; seasons defined as spring/summer (April - Sept) and fall/winter (Oct - March).
- To reserve, residents would fill out a simple application (to be developed by the Green Committee), whereby they would agree to the simple rules of the community garden. TBD how reservations would be awarded - lottery, first come first serve, or selection based on merit. We agreed that we would prefer to cycle between residents rather than continuously awarding to the same resident should there be more applicants than beds.
- Proposed garden rules: The following rules are from <https://communitygarden.org/resources/sample-garden-rules/> - we have crossed out rules we propose to omit from our garden; edits/additions are in yellow; items in green need feedback from the Board:
 1. Each gardener is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their reserved garden plot.
 - a. Watering, weeding, harvesting and any other garden related maintenance are all the responsibility of the gardener. Gardeners may arrange for other gardeners to water their plots. The community garden automatic irrigation schedule is posted online.
 2. ~~Tools will be made available for use during the regularly scheduled work time each week.~~
 - a. ~~A limited number of tools, hoses and watering equipment will be available in the community garden storage bin for use during non-scheduled work times. Regularly scheduled work times will be posted on the garden bulletin board.~~

- ~~3. Each gardener will be given one key to the garden and the storage bin for access to tools and watering equipment.~~
 - ~~a. Gardeners are responsible for bringing that key each time they work in the garden. Keep garden gate and storage bin locked at all times and return all tools.~~
- ~~4. Children are welcome in the garden but must be accompanied by an adult and must be supervised at all times.~~
5. Each gardener must complete a Release of all Claims form before any work in the garden can begin.
6. Reserved garden plots should be cared for at least once a week.
 - a. It is the gardener's responsibility to notify the coordinator if he or she is not able to care for their plot in any given week. If any reserved plot remains unattended for more than three weeks that plot is subject to reassignment.
7. The application of herbicides (weed killers) and pesticides (insect killers) to the garden plots is prohibited.
8. Assignment of garden plots will be awarded by [insert chosen system here] a lottery system.
 - ~~a. Preference for next year's plots will be given to this year's participants first.~~
- ~~9. Plot fees are due in full before the garden season begins.~~
10. Gardeners may harvest vegetables and flowers from their garden only, not other reserved garden beds.
11. At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material and leaving the plot as they found it in the spring.
12. The Garden Green Committee is responsible for ensuring that the rules are followed at all times.

- Considerations/Notes:

- We discussed Denise's suggestion that her Girl Scout troop buy some signs for the beds as their bronze award project and agreed this would be a positive contribution to the garden initiative.
- We considered that we may want to buy a few plants each year for the open beds to "jump start" the garden each season.
- Maintenance of the open beds was discussed. The open beds may need weeding if normal resident activity does not take care of the weeds. Also, who will clear the plants in a bed at the end of a season?
 - Action: Leigh Anne to find out what would be the cost for IMS to pull weeds in the open beds and to clear plants 2X a year
 - Alternatives to IMS is to have Girl or Boy Scouts or Alexander students care for the open beds as part of earning a Garden badge/school project (issue is that students normally take a break for the summer), or have Green Committee members do this work.
- We decided it would be helpful to give suggestions on what can be planted each season (e.g. Tomatoes in the summer, onions in the winter) on the web and on the application form.
- Action: Resident (and FBMG) Ivan to follow up and let us know his

thoughts on:

- *What plants are perennial fruits/vegetables that might be candidates for the beds.*
- *How much garden mix, compost, mulch would be recommended to add to the beds each year as “maintenance” to maintain the soil quality in the beds.*
- *Action: Leigh Anne to find out the current community garden irrigation schedule from IMS and whether we can propose one. Must all beds have the same schedule?*
- *Another idea to look into is providing lady bugs and earthworms for the garden.*

Works in Progress Next Steps (litter service project, recycle drive, and recycle/trash bins for events)

- *Action: Leigh Anne to ask Grace what we asked HEB and Starbucks for last year (in relation to the litter pickup) and send the letter to Julie*
- *Action: Leigh Anne to touch base with Nazim on KTB supplies, email Sheriff's office regarding event date, and touch base with Alexander Elem. per litter pickup checklist*
- *Action: Leigh Anne to email CompuCycle regarding date availability (April 21) for recycle drive; also confirm price quote*

Common Area Sprinkler Watering During/After Rain: *Action: Leigh Anne to follow up with HOA Board at January 22nd meeting regarding getting info from IMS. We have not yet received anything. Also, Leigh Anne will send info we have so far to Ivan.*

Green Corner:

Leigh Anne will write the next article.

Next Steps:

1. Leigh Anne to send Community Garden strawman to Board and attend January 22nd meeting to get their feedback.
2. Leigh Anne will also touch base with Board on requested IMS info as noted above, and FYI them that we will use the same business letter as last year for the litter pickup.

Next meeting Sun, Feb 4th @ 4pm - same location.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.