

Clarkston Community Garden

General Meeting Minutes

of June 16, 2022

Attending: Ken Roberts, John Freeman, Linda Starace, Peggy Medonia, Tana Truscott, Tom Truscott, Dick Adams, Janet Short, Carol Hammond and Kerry Beth Eyman.

Open House/Dedication Ceremony Update

- As a group we chose **August 2nd** from **8:00 am-10:00 am** to make use of the volunteers that show up on Tuesdays and a time frame that is conducive to summer heat. The plan is for attending volunteers to take the visitors through the garden and explain the purpose of the different areas. The dedication portion will be at **9:00 am**.
- **Peggy** is gathering information for a press release about the garden to be submitted the 2nd week of July. This will include basic facts about the garden, such as general history of the garden, food bank statistics and Master Gardening at the garden.
- **Peggy** needs high resolution photos and specifically photos from past open houses.
- **Peggy** will check with **Tana** and **Bob** about photos. **Janice Reed** may also be a source of photos.
- Beverages will be provided but not food. **Ken** will buy a case of water. **Peggy** said she would seek donations for beverages. **Tana** suggested we serve lemonade.
- **Peggy** will design a flyer and bring them to next meeting for distribution.
- **Tana** will invite **Clarkston's mayor**.
- **John** will invite the **President of Walla Wala Community College**.
- **Peggy** suggested that we create a special invite for local businesses that would be of interest to the garden.
- **It is asked that volunteers bring names and addresses of businesses to the next meeting.**

Tana and Peggy have worked with the Clarkston Food Bank to build a stronger relationship

- **Peggy** wrote a letter to be given to each food box recipient at the food bank. A family may apply for 1 box a month. 300 families are served monthly.
- The letter encourages the recipients to volunteer at the garden.
- **The food bank** will copy the letters.
- **Peggy** will ask the food bank if we can put a letter out front at the food bank where the community has unlimited access to perishable food items such and fruit, vegetables, dairy products and bread.
 - **Kerry Beth** suggested that we create a flyer for the front that makes the citizen feel like they are a part of this community and able to contribute. **Kerry Beth** volunteered to create that.
- **Peggy** also updated the donation forms at the food bank.

Peggy suggested we create a water system mentorship to empower garden members to not over-rely on John's and Ken's understanding of the system.

- **Peggy's** husband **Joe** and **Bob Biegart** will work with **John** to create a schematic of the water system. **Howard** may also help. **John** stated that this could be accomplished in 3-4 sessions.
- **Anybody with CAD (COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING) skills would be invaluable in this.**
- **Shawn**, a volunteer that is President of the Lions Club in Lewiston could be of great use and Linda volunteered to contact them.
- It is suggested that the water lines be tested monthly.

Compost Committee Check-In (Tom, Dick and Kerry)

- **KUDOS SPECIFICALLY TO TOM AND DICK** for back hoe rental and implementation! The unsightly pile was relocated to a trench that was dug and filled. **THE UNSIGHTLY PILE IS GONE!!!**
- **The committee** will collaborate on how to proceed with the composting trench system and installing a system that is similar to the previous one for a composting. Black bags will be a part of that as a place to kill weed seeds so they can be added to the compost.
- **The committee** will meet **June 20th**.
- **Bob Biegart** would like to join the **Compost Committee**. **Kerry Beth** will send them an email.
- **Ken** volunteered to make a sign to explain nitrogen to carbon ratio for proper composting.
- **Peggy** suggested an email to inform members about how to compost and create a temporary system for whatever waste is produced in the meantime.
- **Ken** stated that he has some pallets to offer for the new system. **Dick** stated that he would also source free pallets for the project.
- **It was noted that many unsafe things were found in the large, unsightly pile such as: steel posts, tin cans, rocks and plastic bags.**

Volunteer Task Update

- The garden has acquired 3 new volunteers.
- **Peggy** suggested a list of tasks that are level appropriate for any volunteer, so that everyone can participate.
- **Tana** recommended the white board and email.
- **Peggy** suggested organizing the contact information and creating a **"Volunteer Appreciation Day"** to reward volunteers.
- **Peggy** recommended that we revamp our approach for recruiting volunteers and stating a level of expectation for garden maintenance when gardeners sign their contracts. **Kerry Beth** concurred.
- **Kerry Beth** suggested a **Volunteer Outreach Committee** be formed and that a **Volunteer Coordinator** might be a solution to placing volunteers with projects that meet their interest and skill level.

Garden Project List

- **Tana and Peggy** suggested a shade system.
- **Peggy** requested that we review what projects the grants cover and to review the most current by-laws at the next meeting.
- We need to review by-laws to determine projects.
- **Irrigation is a concern.**
- **Tana** suggests that consider what project's and supplies we need to be applying to grants for.

Website Update

- **The cost of the website is currently \$155.81/year.**
- **Peggy** spoke to **Julie Kvern** about exploring free options for website hosting in the future.
- **Janie Roberts** paid for the website for 5 years and needs reimbursed. **Peggy** motioned to reimburse **Janie, Dick** seconded it.
- The website is necessary for applying to certain grants and being relevant and accessible in the “digital age.”

Front Gate Walkway Repair

- **A BIG THANK YOU TO TOM TRUSCOTT!**
- **Tom** removed loose boards that were posing a safety hazard at the main entrance. He donated personal gravel for the project.

New Business/Other Business

- **Sponsor Recognition Board Project**
 - **Ken** stated that the volunteers in place for this won't have a timeline until September.
 - **Ken** also brought to light a metal worker at the farmers market that may be skilled in this.
- **Farmers Market Opportunity**
 - **Peggy** stated that the market would provide a free booth spot for the garden and she suggested that this is an opportunity for volunteer, donation and sponsor outreach.
 - **Ken** recommended that we wait until the vendors are selling larger amounts of produce.
 - **Tana** and **Peggy** both thought that the beginning and end of the season were good times to have a booth.

Next Meeting: July 21st, 2022, 6:00 pm at the United Methodist Church of Clarkston, 1242 Highland, Clarkston, Wa. **The side entrance is the closest to the meeting room. This will be the room at the top of the stairs.**

Please attend and help make this garden great!