

## **Brewery Creek Community Garden AGM**

4 Oct 2022 via Zoom

6:30-7:30pm

### Minutes

#### 1. Introductions & land acknowledgement

Gardeners introduced themselves and shared a favourite thing about the garden this year.

On behalf of the group, Jaymie acknowledged that the garden is situated on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

#### 2. Garden updates for 2022

Cheryl shared some updates and photos from the year. Highlights included:

- \$1000 neighbourhood grant that allowed purchase of lumber, tools, perennials, and repair supplies for bench and picnic table
- Expansion of native plant garden, accompanied by new signage that was donated by Wild Spaces (<https://www.instagram.com/wildspacesvan/>)
- Repairs to garden beds and picnic table (special thanks to David and Doug)
- Return of Little Diggers program (special thanks to Jaymie)
- Celebration of the garden's 10th anniversary with a social event and picnic

#### 3. Financial update

Kristina presented a brief update on garden finances, including a summary of expenditures. The garden currently has a balance of \$433.77. It was noted that a fair amount of lumber has already been purchased for the bed repairs that will be occurring in the coming months.

#### 4. Member engagement strategies

Derrick facilitated a discussion of ideas for member engagement and possible approaches to regular garden tasks. What would allow people to contribute meaningfully and be able to have a sense of responsibility?

- It was noted that work parties at varied times (ie, some weekends, some weekdays) are a good way to look after common areas as a group.
- Could a special theme for some of the work parties help to attract those who are interested in a particular task (e.g., archway repair)?
- It was noted that having some special sections as assigned responsibilities worked well for some members.

- It was suggested that long table events may be a good way to share a dish with other members and to encourage connections.
- The group discussed opportunities to welcome/orient/engage with new members. A special event for new members could occur at the beginning of the season and could include a tour, information on work parties, etc. It was noted that new members are now required to complete some volunteer hours prior to joining the garden, so this already occurs to some degree. New members could perhaps be paired with an experienced gardener so they have someone to reach out to with any questions. It was suggested that a couple questions around volunteer interests could be included as part of registration. It was noted that this has been tried in the past, as has a survey to all members regarding volunteer interests and skills. The group discussed the possibility of trying this approach again, perhaps with some more specific ideas/options paired with some follow-up from another member or interest group.
- Some ideas for events were discussed. It was suggested that someone with a wealth of community garden experience could be invited to speak to gardeners on a skills development theme (“getting the most out of your garden” or similar).

ACTION: Derrick will refine these ideas and bring them back a future Board meeting for discussion

#### 5. Winter garden bed repairs

Doug shared some information about bed repairs. Lumber has already been purchased and he and David are willing to do repairs over the fall, starting in mid-October or so. The repairs can cause some disruption to beds/soil/plants. A clear communication to gardeners regarding this plan and a deadline for opting out is needed.

ACTIONS: Doug and David will take a look at the beds to assess the extent of the repairs that are needed and will communicate this to the rest of the Board. Kristina will send a message to the garden list on Oct 5 with these details and will request that gardeners email [brewerycreekgarden@gmail.com](mailto:brewerycreekgarden@gmail.com) within a week (Oct 12) if they wish to opt out of repairs.

#### 6. Tools/supplies for purchase in the garden - suggestions?

No suggestions for additional purchases came forward.

#### 7. Future projects

The group discussed possible future projects:

- Replacement of archway
- Expand plant identification signage, especially in native plant garden
- Create signs for the areas of garden that are marked on the map
- Expand/improve children’s garden

8. Call for new board members

Members are invited to volunteer to join the Board. Are there any members with an interest in helping with fundraising/grants or social events?

9. Other business

Cheryl raised the idea of organizing a seed sharing day in early spring. The group was enthusiastic about this idea.

The group discussed the size of the membership. Our garden has 52 plots including the accessible plots and the membership is approximately 70 people including secondary gardeners (not including Little Diggers participants). A small number of plots may be available for next year. Plots are typically made available to new gardeners shortly after the payment/renewal period in the spring, which is typically when gardeners indicate that they will not be keeping their plot. Prospective new members must complete 3 hours of volunteer work at the garden prior to joining.

Naila was the winner of the door prize.

It was noted that the final work party of the year will be on Sun, Oct 30, 9am-12pm.

Members were thanked for their contributions and the meeting was adjourned.