

FULTON PLACE COMMUNITY GARDEN

SUNSHINE GARDEN MEETING

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Quorum was reached with 9 people attending: Holly, Christine, Sherry, Linda, Esther, Bonnie, Eldon, Doreen, Jonathan

1. Approval:
  - a. Agenda approved with one amendment giving April 20 rather than April 21 for the Pre-Season Garden Meeting.
  - b. Prior meeting minutes from September 15, 2016 were approved.
  - c. **Sherry Moved and Eldon Seconded. Motion Carried to enlist Esther Van Herk as our new Treasurer.** An appointment will be set with Servus for signing authorization and obtaining a new client card.
2. Updates:
  - a. The Helping Hands Matching Grant in the amount of \$300. was received from EPCOR.
  - b. Other grants including:
    - i. \$1000 for the water system improvement from Imperial Oil,
    - ii. \$500 from Capital Power,
    - iii. \$500 for Community Engagement from the City of Edmonton, and
    - iv. \$1000 from the Fulton Place Community League (for the years 2016 & 2017) have been received and deposited.
  - c. Financial Reports including the 2017 Operating Budget;
    - i. the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2016;
    - ii. the Operating Fund as of December 31, 2016;
    - iii. and the Capital Fund as of December 31, 2016 were presented.
  - d. We currently have 14 members who have not confirmed their ongoing rental of boxes for the 2017 growing season. **Linda offered to contact those members who are not on our e-mail list. Sherry will advertise for new renters.**
  - e. A flower bed will be established and planted in memory of Laretta's son Mitch, in honor of his service to St. Augustine's Church.
  - f. Due to the focus of the Sunshine Garden Group to provide information on all aspects of gardening free of charge, we decided to decline Claudia Boli's (Wild Green Consulting) request to use the garden resources in her classes.
3. Discussion:
  - a. Proposal for maintenance and management of communal areas from **Doreen, Eldon and Bonnie** was approved. (see attached). This proposal sets a weekly maintenance session for Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. from early May to late September. Leaders will be recruited and **Eldon will create a laminated list of jobs usually needing to be done.**

Box holders will be encouraged to sign-up for a minimum of 3 weekly sessions as well as other jobs that include:

- i. setting out beverages and snacks on the Wednesday evenings;
  - ii. helping with Friday Kids in the Garden;
  - iii. handing out maps for the Garden Tour;
  - iv. assisting with the spring and/or fall gardener's swap;
  - v. attending the Wake-up the Garden and/or Wrap-up the Garden work sessions;
  - vi. assisting with the upgrading of the water system.
- b. The Planting Committee **Linda, Esther, Bonnie, Eldon & Doreen** have not yet met but during the group discussion agreed:
- i. to add a second Donation Bed that would be planted with root vegetables such as potatoes and carrots.
  - ii. to look at rotating crops to prevent soil depletion.
  - iii. to ask renters to not plant squash for this year in the hopes of preventing another outbreak of powdery mildew.
  - iv. **Sherry** suggested the bean towers be planted with a variety of drying beans – perhaps Orca Beans.
  - v. **Jonathan** has investigated mushroom growing sources such as Gruger Market in Nisku that will be offering information sessions later this season.
- c. School groups planning. **Sherry & Eldon** *will arrange to meet with all interested Hardisty teachers at one time*. Their focus will continue to be on grades 1, 4, &7. They will be encouraging teachers to take an active role in making the garden a valuable classroom resource.
- d. **Esther** reported that the Sunshine Garden website has been renewed for 5 years. She asked for ideas on what can be included to improve the look and content of the site.
- e. A suggestion was tabled to change our meeting day as several of the executive are unable to attend on Thursday evenings. **Sherry** will follow up with the church rentals to see if another evening is available.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.