



University Endowment Lands (UEL) Community Gardens Society

2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Thursday, April 10, 2024, at 7:00pm

Location: Online (Zoom)

Members in Attendance (by display name on Zoom):

Behrad “Bob” Nassiri, Hannah Farrell, Krithika Venkatachalam, Louise Griep, Romy Cooper, Lin-P’ing Choo-Smith, Jindadazhang Zhang, Jeffrey Greenman, Andrea, Iris Chen, Peter, Glenda Mason, Karen Truscott, Cynthia James, Ella, Bobbi & Nicholas, Sylvia, Jean.

Call to Order:

The meeting of the UEL Community Gardens Society (UELCSG) was called to order at 7:06pm by President Hannah Farrell, acting as meeting chair. A land acknowledgement was delivered recognized the territory of the Musqueam First Nation as the location of the meeting and gardens.

Rules of Order:

The meeting was governed by Robert’s Rules of Order. The meeting achieved quorum as more than three members were present. We ensured all members were able to vote on Zoom by utilizing the “raise hand” function.

Adoption of Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of AGM minutes
3. Board of Directors Report
4. Election of Directors
5. Presentation of Financials
6. Questions and Answers

MOTION: Moved by Hannah Farrell and seconded by Louise Griep that the agenda be adopted; hearing no objections or amendments, the motion was passed on consensus.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Thanks were offered to the main sponsors of the garden: Gandy’s Home Hardware, Kerrisdale Lumber, Hewer Home Hardware, Alison Fong, and West Coast Seeds.

Members of the Garden Committee were introduced: Hannah Farrell, Jeff Greenman, Cynthia James, Krithika Venkatachalam, Karen Truscott, Louise Griep, Lin-P’ing Choo-Smith, Iris Chen, and Behrad “Bob” Nassiri. Committee members who were noted absent were May Liu and John Smalley.

2. Approval of Minutes for AGM 2024

MOTION: Moved by Hannah Farrell and seconded by Karen Truscott that the minutes be approved; a vote was called and the motion was carried.

3. Board of Director's Report

A. Highlights of 2024 Season: presented by Louise Griep

- Working Bees: gardening members came to help maintain the garden. Members were thanked for keeping the garden a place of calm and beauty, as well as help continue to build community.
- Microgreen Event: the microgreen event was a very successful event held by Iris
- New Notice Board
- AMS Food Bank: we continued our partnership with the AMS Foodbank this past gardening season. With extended hours of the food bank, we were able to continue our partnership and coordinate pick up well. This year, the Food Bank will accept donations on Monday and Thursdays from 12pm to 7pm. We look forward to another year of partnership with the AMS Foodbank.

B. UEL Community Gardens Purpose: presented by Louise Griep

- To provide a place for local residents to grow food and flowers
- To create a community hub fostering connections between people
- To provide an opportunity to learn about gardening and food
- To model an inclusive, diverse community that shares a common vision
- To enhance the beauty of the neighbourhood

C. Membership Report: presented by Louise Griep

- Currently, there are 55 plots in the garden, with one as the community herb plot. All plots are occupied. 38 plot holders have been members since the garden's first year of operation, and 35 plot holders have been in their original plot.
- 15 plots have turned over, and 8 plot holders have moved from small to large plots over the past 3 years.
- No plot members have needed to wait over 1 season to join the garden.
- There are currently 12 people on the waitlist

D. Future Plans: presented by Hannah Farrell

- Soil arrived on March 29
- Water was turned on in the garden on April 2
- West Coast Seeds have been ordered and will arrive soon
- Please continue to check your email for when our first monthly working bee will be.

E. Volunteers: presented by Hannah Farrell

- Our garden always needs extra hands (photographers, food bank, other partner liaisons), so please visit our website or send us an email if you are interested in helping out
- Watering volunteers for bushes and apple trees will be organized by Lin-P'ing.

Please speak with her or send us an email if you would like to help water!

F. Watering Volunteers: presented by Lin-P'ing Choo-Smith

- It was another successful season of watering volunteers. The 8-9 volunteers who helped were thanked and information about how to join the watering volunteers was shared.
- This year, there will be soaker hoses to help with blueberry bush and apple tree watering.
- Please watch your email inbox and reach out to Lin-P'ing if you're interested in joining the watering volunteers.

F. Phase III: presented by Jeff Greenman

- Phase III, an expansion of the garden, is in the works and will be built by Polygon (the same company that is building the Reagent College development).
- Plans are to begin construction in May this year.
- Plans include adding more gardening beds, more storage, more composting areas, and a covered structure with picnic areas.
- Please watch your inbox for further details.

4. Election of Directors

The proposed slate of 10 directors for the coming year was presented as follows:

- Hannah Farrell – President
- Jeff Greenman – Vice President
- Cynthia James – Secretary
- Krithika Venkatachalam – Treasurer
- Karen Truscott – Director at Large
- Louise Griep – Director at Large
- Lin-P'ing Choo-Smith – Director at Large
- Iris Chen – Director at Large
- Behrad “Bob” Nassiri – Director at Large
- John Smalley – Director at Large

Nominations from the floor: None

MOTION: Moved by Hannah Farrell and seconded by Louise Griep that the proposed slate of directors be elected. A vote was called and the motion was carried.

5. Financial Report

The financial report for 2024-2025 was presented by Krithika Venkatachalam.

Expenses

- Expenditure included the following: website domain, Wix website (2025), WestCoast Seeds Delivery 2025, compost (2025), BMO bank maintenance fees, BMO Interac e-transfer fees, miscellaneous purchases
- Total Expense in 2025: \$1554.32

Revenue

- Revenue included the following: 48 regular-sized plots, 6 smaller-sized plots (children's and wheelchair accessible)
- Total Revenue in 2024: \$3150.00
- Total Revenue: \$7168.65
- Total Revenue with Expenses: \$5614.33
- Net surplus for 2023-2024: \$4018.65

Asset

- Assets include tools and items in shed, fruit trees, hedges, plants at entry gate, and hose reels.
- Total Assets: \$4018.65

Immediate Future Expenses

- Society filing
- Garden Insurance
- Garden Events and Work Bees
- Standard running costs of the garden

MOTION: Moved by Krithika Venkatachalam and seconded by Karen Truscott that the Financial Report be accepted. A vote was called and the motion was carried.

7. Questions and Answers

- A question and answer period was opened, and discussion about event insurance, as well as brainstorming how to better ensure that soil will go to gardeners next year followed.
- Other recommendations, such as including where the UBC Food Bank is in an email, as well as whether there is budget for further garden upgrades was discussed.

Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Hannah Farrell and seconded by Louise Griep that the meeting be adjourned; hearing no objections or amendments, the motion was passed on consensus. Meeting Adjourned at 8:02pm. Informal discussion continued for those in attendance.

[Minutes prepared by Cynthia James as recording secretary for this meeting.]