

University Endowment Lands (UEL) Community Gardens Society
2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Online (Zoom)

MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Louise Griep, Hannah Farrell, Krithika Venkatachalam, Karen Truscott, May Liu, Suborna Ahmed, Behrad Nassiri, Meagan Cozac, Glenda Mason, Stephanie Fung, Bill Reimer, Dorcas Reimer, John Smalley, Patricia Comeau, Lin Ping Choo-Smith, Sylvia Giles, Andréa Minden, Lisa Chen-Wing

Call to Order:

The meeting of the UEL Community Gardens Society (ULECG) was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Vice-President Hannah Farrell, acting as meeting chair. A land acknowledgement was delivered recognizing the territory of the Musqueam First Nation as the location of the meeting and the 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.

Adoption of Agenda:

The agenda for the meeting was proposed as follows:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes for AGM 2022
3. Board of Directors Report
4. Election of Directors
5. Financial Report
6. Questions & 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 gardens: Gandy's Home Hardware, Hewer's Home Hardware, Kerrisdale Lumber, Alison Fong, and West Coast Seeds.

Members of the Gardening Committee were introduced: Hannah Farrell, Krithika Venkatachalam, Karen Truscott, Louise Griep and May Liu (arrived later). Committee members noted as absent were Jeff Greenman and Cynthia James.

2. Approval of Minutes for AGM 2022

MOTION: Moved by Hannah Farrell and seconded by Bill Reimer that the minutes be approved; hearing no objections or amendments, the motion was PASSED on consensus.

3. **Board of Directors' Report**

A. **Highlights of 2022 Season:** presented by Hannah Farrell

- general photos of the garden were shared on screen showing our progress
- seeds were received from West Coast Seeds and available for gardeners
- two picnic tables were installed in the garden in the fall of 2022
- informal partnership was formed with the UBC Food Bank, operated by the AMS
- phase 2 plots were opened and gardeners moved into the space
- a successful launch event was held in June 2022 which was well-attended
- photos of the launch event were shared with members on screen
- more events are being planned for the 2023 season

B. **UBC Food Bank:** presented by Louise Griep

- assistance provided by UELCG to UBC Food Bank in collecting produce was reviewed; how to keep our momentum moving forward?
- testimonials from food bank users were received by UBC and shared with UELCG:
 - “Sarah” expressed gratitude and explained that the food bank was a lifeline; she stated that the fresh and delicious vegetable donated by gardeners were a welcome addition to her dinner table
 - “Jeremy” offered his thanks for the healthy food, especially as it is focused on sustainable products from locally-sourced community gardens; he hopes to give back to the community in the future
- the AMS is changing its criteria and a minimum of 50 pounds is now required for pick-up of food donations; UELCG is unlikely to meet this target, and therefore volunteers are needed who are willing to make drop-offs in the coming season
- the UBC Food bank is located in the UBC Life Building (beside the Nest)

C. **UELCG Purpose:** presented by Hannah Farrell

- 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
- to model an inclusive, diverse community
- to enhance the beauty of the neighbourhood

D. **Garden Plans:** presented by Hannah Farrell

Water – the water is shut off in the winter to prevent the lines from freezing; the water has now been turned back on

Signs – the UEL will be funding an official sign for the gardens; the location is still to be decided

Seeds – West Coast Seeds supports organic, community-based gardening projects; seeds were provided by West Coast Seeds in 2022, and seeds remain in the shed for use; UELCG has been approved to receive further seeds again in 2023; a box is on the way containing an assortment of seeds (vegetables, flowers and herbs)

Herb Garden – May Liu has agreed to be our contact person for the herb garden; gardeners should feel free to donate items (herbs only please) and label items clearly

Compost – a delivery will be arriving on Sat. Apr. 1 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; it will be piled just outside the garden entrance on the south side:

- the compost is described as “soil amender” and consists of garden clippings, sand (stabilizer) and mushroom manure (fertilizer)
- the soil is in improved condition from last year; small amounts of plastic will still remain, as waste ends up in private garden compost and then becomes part of the commercial compost chain
- enough compost has been ordered to allow for a top-up of 2-3 inches per plot
- gardeners may help themselves to the compost in the pile
- a compost and weeding party will be held on Sun. Apr. 2 starting at 2:00 p.m. and gardeners may ask for extra help, if needed

Volunteers – volunteers are needed for the following roles:

- *Event Planners* – to assist with planning approx. 2 events per season (eg. seed exchange, social gathering)
- *Watering Coordinators* – in phase 1 and phase 2 for blueberry bushes, fruit trees and herb garden
- *Photographers* – for general garden photos and photos at special events
- *UBC Food Bank liaison* – serve as contact person for UELCG
- *UEL CG Website* – members may visit the website for more information, role descriptions, and to submit applications for volunteer roles

Proposed Phase 3 – no further development of the gardens will take place this year, due to UEL budgetary constraints; there are restrictions on the use of the area, as access is required to underground structures; when created, it would include a gathering place.

E. Discussion: general discussion of the Directors’ Report

- *Seeds* – members may donate seeds by leaving them in the shed, as well as during any planned seed exchange event

- *Fence* – the UEL is reluctant to build and pay for a perimeter fence; the blueberry bushes are intended to grow and provide a natural barrier
- *Theft* – issues and solutions:
 - laminated signage has been provided on both entry gates and on the shed; additional signs are available in the shed for those members wishing to post a sign in their own individual plots
 - the garden is a public area intended for use by the community – privacy concerns and legal limitations restrict the nature and extent of any measures that could be taken (eg. security cameras)
- *Smoking* – noted as taking place at picnic tables – signs will be added to indicate that the garden is a no smoking/ no vaping area; future noticeboard will be installed where garden guidelines will also be posted (eg. smoking, pets, bicycles)
- *Bushes/Trees* – concern noted regarding health of these plants – they will be shown extra care this season to see if they can recover from drought
- *On-site Composter* – not at this time, due to lack of volunteer power needed to supervise it, and its tendency to attract garbage from the community

4. Election of Directors

The proposed slate of 6 directors for the coming year was presented as follows:

Jeff Greenman – President
 Hannah Farrell – Vice-President
 Cynthia James – Secretary
 Krithika Venkatachalam – Treasurer
 Karen Truscott – director-at-large
 Louise Griep – director-at-large

MOTION: Moved by Hannah Farrell and seconded by Sylvia Giles that the proposed slate of directors be elected. A vote was called and the motion was CARRIED.

5. Financial Report

The financial report for 2022-2023 was presented:

Revenue

- The half-year for phase 2 was reflected in the original price: \$50 regular and \$40 child/accessible plot; phase 1 and 2 then became the same prices: \$60 regular and \$45 child/accessible plot
- The garden has grown from 26 plots (+ herb garden) to 55 plots
- **Total revenue = \$4,595.21**

Expenses

- Expenditures included the following: non-profit organization (NPO) filing, website domain, Quickbooks accounting program (standard and upgraded), herbs, seed delivery, bank fees, Interac, launch event (refreshments, etc.)
- **Total expenses = \$398.77**

Assets

- Assets include tools and items in shed, fruit trees, hedges, plants at entry gates
- **Total assets = \$4,196.44**

Immediate Future Expenditures

- Lawn Boy compost – arriving weekend of April 1-2, 2023
- Insurance
- WIX website purchase
- Garden hose replacement – pilot project for testing hose reels this spring

MOTION: Moved by Krithika Venkatachalam and seconded by Louise Griep that the Financial Report be accepted. A vote was called and the motion was CARRIED.

6. Questions and Answers

- the gardens were noted as providing moments of rest and peace for UBC Hospital staff, patients and families
- health of dwarf fruit trees was raised as an issue (eg. apple trees) – the Gardening Committee will explore signage options
- supports or trellises must stay within the confines of individual plots, unless arranged with adjacent garden plots on mutual consent
- suggestion made to purchase better tools for digging weed, etc.; please continue to note suggestions for new additions to tools in shed and needed repairs of existing tools

Many thanks to all members of UELCG.....together we have created a welcoming space in our community; we will continue to encourage respectful behaviour in the gardens

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 7:50 p.m. Informal discussion continued for those in attendance.

[Minutes prepared by Karen Truscott as recording secretary for this meeting.]