



University Endowment Lands (UEL) Community Gardens Society

2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 7:00pm

Location: Online (Zoom)

Members in Attendance (by display name on Zoom):

Louise Griep, Behrad “Bob” Nassiri, Glenda Mason, Hannah & Krithika, iPad (89), Iris Chen, Jeff Greenman, Karen Truscott, Katrina, Lin-P’ing Choo-Smith, Romy Cooper, Tarab1313, Cynthia James

Call to Order:

The meeting of the UEL Community Gardens Society (UELCSG) was called to order at 7:03pm 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 2023

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

3. Board of Director's Report

A. Highlights of 2023 Season: presented by Hannah Farrell

- 2023 season had four successful Working Bees
- Hose reels were installed
- Erica from West Coast Seeds toured the garden
- Iris hosted a Taiwanese book event

B. Food Bank: presented by Louise Griep

- Our garden maintained a successful partnership with the AMS Food Bank at UBC
- We would like to figure out how to better connect with the Food Bank such that food can be fresh
- During this upcoming season, it is very likely that the Food Bank will be extending its hours so that drop-offs can be done after work hours

C. 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
- To model an inclusive, diverse community
- To enhance the beauty of the neighbourhood

D. Membership Report: presented by Louise Griep

- Currently, there are 55 plots in the garden, with one as the community herb plot
- 15 plots have turned over at least once
- 39 people have continued to garden since the start of the garden
- 5 people moved from small to large plots
- 6 people have left after 2022
- 2 people left after 2023
- Waitlist has 4 people waiting for any size of plot

E. Future Plans: presented by Hannah Farrell

- Water has been turned on in the garden

- We would like submissions from gardeners (for example, photos, recipes, etc.)
- A notice board will be arriving, as well as a sign with our logo on it
- We are hoping to have more social events this summer, so please watch your email inbox
- Working Bee: May 4th at 3pm ; put in calendar but we will also send out an email
- Compost arrived on Saturday April 6th

F. Website Update: presented by Allison Fong

- Allison and Hannah are working on making the website more accessible and cohesive for gardeners in order for less reliance on emails as the only way to be updated
- To improve the website, Allison and Hannah have developed a survey that will be distributed in email and on our Instagram page

G. 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!

H. Phase III: presented by Hannah Farrell

- There is no set construction date for Phase III
- Phase III aims to be a communal area with a gathering structure and educational plots
- We have listened to feedback about having more permanent plots in Phase III, and have passed this information on to the UEL

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 Krithika Venkatachalam that the proposed slate of directors be elected. A vote was called and the motion was carried.

5. Financial Report

The financial report for 2023-2024 was presented by Krithika Venkatachalam.

Expenses

- Expenditure included the following: website domain, Wix website (2023, 2024), WestCoast Seeds Delivery 2023, compost (2023, 2024), BC Societies Act fees, Quickbooks, BMO bank maintenance fees, BMO Interac e-transfer fees, BC Council of Garden Clubs insurance (2023, 2024), garden event drinks and snacks, maintenance and tool purchases.
- **Total Expense in 2024: \$3775.53**

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: \$7566.69**
- **Total Revenue with Expenses: \$3791.16**
- **Net surplus for 2023-2024: \$1266.69**

Asset

- Assets include tools and items in shed, fruit trees, hedges, plants at entry gate, and hose reels.
- **Total Assets: \$4016.16**

Immediate Future Expenses:

- Society filing
- Hose replacements for leaking hoses, garden events and Working Bees

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.

It was noted that we hope for hoses to last longer than one gardening season, so we anticipate our expenses will be lower this year.

6. Gardening Agreement

We have made minor changes to the gardening agreement based on feedback:

- In order to maintain a plot in the UEL Community Gardens, the gardener must live in the UEL. Please let the committee know if you have moved. Please do not give your plot to others after you have moved.
- There have been concerns about involuntary sharing (i.e. fruits and vegetables go missing from plots). We have done our best by putting up signs, but we ask gardeners to understand that this is the reality of being apart of a community garden!

- We ask gardeners to keep their plants in their own plot and ensure that they do not invade others space. Further, we ask that pots and other items around the plot are removed as they pose a tripping hazard. We want to keep the garden neat and tidy!
- Please put back what you take, especially hose nozzles; return to the shed what you have borrowed.
- Some plants are particularly difficult to remove from plots (e.g. mint). Please plant in a pot in your plot if you would like mint, but we encourage not planting mint in the garden. Other plants to avoid are bushes, poppies, and tomatoes re: spreading around the garden.

7. Questions and Answers

- Members of the Gardening Committee encouraged gardeners to share what kinds of events they would like to see in the garden
- Weeding the garden was discussed. The Gardening Committee noted that if plants in your neighbouring plot were growing into your plot to please contact us. If there are plants rooted in the blueberry bushes/around the garden, please pull them out as they can take moisture.
- The future Reagent College development was discussed and its future plans included a pedestrian walkway and plaza, ground floor retail, housing, and underground parking (accessed from Wesbrook Mall side). It will take a few years to complete.
- We discussed the community herb plot, and Iris will be taking the lead of this. The Gardening Committee encouraged people to refrain from planting extra vegetables/produce in the plot that are not herbs. The Committee also asked gardeners to label the community herb plot herbs clearly.

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 7:50pm. Informal discussion continued for those in attendance.

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