

Minutes for SRG Council Meeting – Aug. 3 – 7pm

Location – Gazebo at Sunriver Gardens

Welcome and Introductions:

Attendees: Janet Renfroe, Augusta Popovich, Christine Eastgaard, Jill Hickson

Regrets: Paula McCormick

Minutes of July 3, 2020 Council meeting considered read, motion by Jill Hickson, seconded by Janet Renfroe. APPROVED

Reports:

Communications/Plot Registrar – Janet

There are currently 92 registered plot holders and 17 on the waiting list. We lost 11 plots due to the closure of Pod 4, and have now created 12 new plots in the areas of the back 40 and the former Grow-A-Row plots at the front of SRG. All Pod 4 plot holders were given the opportunity to choose a new plot. One plot holder declined the temporary move as well as a plot in either of the new sites and has received a full refund.

Secretary – no report

Growing For Sooke – Paula (report summary from submitted email)

Food production has continued throughout July and our harvest size will soon be reflecting the heavier crops such as potatoes, more squash, and tomatoes. We were able to deliver to the Sooke Food Bank 3 times last month and provide an additional delivery to the Thrift Store (pre-arranged with the Food Bank).

Paula reported that the Food Bank is interested in continuing the relationship of food donation and has asked a meet up with her in the future. She is also seeking to relocate the blueberry and asparagus plants. Some of the rhubarb have already been distributed.

Discussion followed this report with regards to Paula's concern over how the new plots were dispersed and the strategy to begin work in this area. Although council felt that a strategy was in place, Janet will reach out to Paula to discuss this matter further.

Food CHI – Jill – nothing to report

General Maintenance – Compost, tools, water, etc. – Janet

The compost enclosures have been completed and are now being used. Thank you to Tom and Jim for their work on this project.

Orchard – Glen (from Janet)

The orchard is still closed due to Covid 19. Work has been done on the fence to keep the bears out and two strands of electric fencing have been hooked up to solar panels for this purpose. The lock on the orchard gate has been replaced, and a new key is located in the drawer in the SRG toolshed in case of an emergency.

New Business

Pod 4 Update – Jill reported that most of the plot holders have started work on their new plots and the area is starting to take shape! Thank you to everyone for their hard work on this! Also, thank you to Debbie and Dale Olnick for arranging the donated services of Sooke Backhoe.

There was a discussion about how to re-number the new plots, both in the back 40 and the front area.

Action: Christine has volunteered to look into the numbering of the plots.

It was decided that the back 40 would now be called Pod 4 and the plots in the front area would join the pod that included the garden boxes.

Augusta has regretfully stepped down as the Pod 4 rep. Thank you for your expertise over the years, Augusta!

A discussion followed about some confusion over where the blueberry bushes will go once they have finished producing.

Motion by Christine: to discuss with Paula re the distribution of the blueberry bushes to make sure it is clear who will receive them and when they will be moved. Seconded, Augusta. APPROVED

There are two plots in the new Pod 4 that have not been assigned – Motion by Jill Hickson: to allow the next two people on the waiting list the opportunity to choose these plots and begin working on them, as there will be a lot of work ahead to turn them into usable plots. Seconded, Christine. APPROVED

Action: Jill will ask Anita how they plan to safely secure the old Pod 4 area once everyone has removed their plants and other items for their new plots.

Covid 19 Update – We are now allowed to have small groups of volunteers for things such as Growing for Sooke and other projects – as long as protocols are still followed such as social distancing and wearing gloves. The play areas remain closed at this time.

Fence progress – Keith Aiskiw has volunteered to help repair the fence. His contact info has been given to Anita so that he and Kenny can coordinate. Keith has already started clearing some of the area behind the fence and fixed some of the fence posts.

Other plot development – As per Anita’s report, the Native Garden is to be dismantled to make room for more plots. This will require permission from the First Nations group – which it is understood that Anita will look into. Discussion followed regarding all the changes at the gardens, and it was decided to let things settle for the time being and to see how things go once the season is over and the plots are renewed, etc.

There are two plots that are too small for plot holders to move around in and garden efficiently. Motion by Janet: to join plots 13c (micro) and 13b (small). Seconded by Augusta. APPROVED

Concern was raised about plots that are not being managed properly (ie. weeds are overgrown). Janet has addressed this with several plot holders via phone and email, but is still experiencing problems. It was decided that some of the language in our guidelines is not strong enough to support the changing times, given the needs of people to increase food production and the fact that we have such a long waiting list. Motion by Christine: to revise the guidelines for the September meeting, in order to give people a chance to review them and make changes if need be. Seconded by Augusta. APPROVED

Cherry tree, apple trees and kiwi – These will be pruned by Glen when appropriate. The cherry tree has one limb that is diseased and may need to be removed.

Compost signs – Kimberly has volunteered to help with this.

Newsletter – Janet and Kimberly will work on the newsletter together. Dave will submit photos of the gardens to add to the newsletter.

Budget for 2020 - Discussion re the budget and where our monies go/who manages it. Until we have a treasurer, Janet has spoken to Lynn and he will manage an amount of petty cash. We will reach out to Anita for more clarification on this issue. Action: Janet will ask Jackie for a written job description so that we have a better idea of what this position involves.

Manure – It was discussed that we need to look into having more regular deliveries of manure. Action: Janet will talk to Paula about setting up a delivery.

Meeting adjourned: 9pm

Date for the next meeting – Monday, September 14 Time TBA