

## Sunriver Community Gardens – April 24th, 2021, Zoom 3pm

### Attendees:

- Attendees:
  - Chairperson - Jill Hickson, Plot Registra - Janet Renfroe, Secretary - Elizabeth Ford, Garden Maintenance - Chris Borysiak, Treasurer - Christine Eastgaard
  - Members at Large: Kimberly Elkas, David Hannis, Val Ross
- Regrets: Augusta Popovich

Welcome to David and Elizabeth - thank-you for joining the council.

Motion to Adopt March Minutes - Proposed: Janet, Seconded: Christine

### Reports

- Plot registration – Janet
  - 16 on the waitlist, lots of those people are interested in volunteering for the growing for Sooke program while they wait
  - Refund for one of the raised beds - there have been issues with Plot H. The board discussed the situation and decided the easiest path was to issue a refund and remove the plot holder from the gardens.
    - Motion: To make an exception to the plot holder guidelines and issue a refund for plot H
    - Proposed: Val Seconded: Chris
  - Seven plots that have not been worked at all and the plot holders have a deadline of May 1st to begin working their plot. Since the guidelines are part of the 2021, the council thought it would be best to email the
    - Action: Janet to email the membership to remind of the policy that they signed for the 2021 season and specifically points 6 - 8 and the deadlines to have their plots worked and at 70% production by May 31st.
- Orchard – Glenn
  - No update
- Food Chi - Jill
  - Annual General Meeting is scheduled for May 26th and Jill will attend. Jill will continue to attend their board meetings.
- Maintenance - Janet and Chris
  - Work bee was successful with about 20 people attending, and others got in touch independently to work on the garden as well.
  - Back fence - waiting for Steve to start working on the fence and he is going to come on the weekend and see if the land is dry enough to put in the fence
  - South side fence - paid for by the homeowner and Sunriver Community Gardens, the fence is starting to fall down in places. Janet spoke with the homeowner and he would like the fence repaired. No action at this time, we'll keep an eye on the fence and review in the fall when we create the 2022 budget.

- Southwest end of the garden perimeter fence is falling down and deer are getting in. Kimberly and Bob put in a temporary fix to repair the fence. But it requires a better solution.
  - Action: Chris and Janet to take a look at the fence, review what supplies we have and if we need to spend some money to temporary fix the fence
- Treasurer – Christine
  - Provided an update on the current financial position aligned to the budget
  - Discussed the insurance specifically for the out of bounds area. Request that no one goes into that area and signage be updated to explain why the area is out of bounds. Once the lease is signed with the District of Sooke, Christine will follow up with Laura Hopper to get the geosite report and discuss with the insurance provider.
  - Action: Kimberly to put the keep out signage up and work with Janet to create a laminated sign explaining why the area is out of bounds.
- Secretary - Christine acting on behalf of Elizabeth Ford
  - Elizabeth has kindly offered to take on the roll of secretary, thank-you!!
  - Christine will provide an update on the grant applications later in the meeting

#### District of Sooke License to Occupy - Jill

- License has been drafted and will be presented to the District of Sooke council on Monday April 26th. Once it has been approved, then it will go to the District of Sooke legal to approve and Jill will sign on behalf of the Sunriver Community Gardens Society.

#### Grants Update - Christine

- Presented to the District of Sooke Council, the presentation was well received and two councilors donated supplies for the irrigation project. District of Sooke postponed announcing the successful applications until a special council meeting on Tuesday April 27th

#### Surplus membership funds in the Food Chi Bank Account - Kimberly

- Further discussions are pending signing the License to Occupy. Kimberly has offered to look into the legal aspect to the membership surplus funds and we will hold off until discussions resume with Food Chi.
- Action: Jill and Christine to return to negotiations with Food Chi after the Food Chi AGM.

#### Growing for Sooke - Jill

- No update

#### New Business

- May Newsletter Content
  - There has been much energy put into the gardens this year and it is looking beautiful. For the next newsletter, we'd like to thank everyone for taking on the common areas - The healing garden and the native garden, the area next to the greenhouse, the parking lot area are looking especially beautiful. As well as thank you for the work put into digging the ditch for the waterstand, turning the compost. And finally all the beautiful signage that Kimberly has created and painting all the tools and cleaning up the tool shed - it looks amazing!!!

- Landscape fabric uses
  - Had a generous donation of landscape fabric from Councillor Lajeunesse. Lots of uses for the landscape fabric in addition to the irrigation project including the out of bounds area and the common areas
- Plot signs
  - Kimberly received paints from Hartland dump and needs to get boards cut for the signage. There is another \$140 in the budget for signage and Kimberly will decide on what she needs within the budget. Chris has offered to help with cutting the wood.
- Tool shed
  - Need to have the shelf and the bench moved so that Kimberly can paint in there. Chris will take a look and see if it can be moved.

Next Meeting: May 17th at 6:30pm via Zoom to discuss the plot holders that are not up to date with the guidelines

Meeting Adjourned: 4:50pm