



Steering Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 14, 2023

Meeting Time: 6:30 PM

Members Present: Dave Barkelew, Neal Charles, Lyn Rios, Eric Gose, Kat Whitmire, and Catherine Sewell,

Unless explicitly stated otherwise, any statement is reflective of an individual board member and not the opinion of the Board as a whole.

Agenda Items:

1. **Bylaws:** Passed unanimously. 29 members participate – 28 voted “Yes” and 1 abstained. 54% of members voted which is an increase from 30% in 2017.
2. **Change in council line up:** After 8 years of service Beth Arcotta has stepped down as Plot Coordinator. Catherine Sewell, Adelphi Zone Coordinator, has been appointed as Interim Plot Coordinator.
3. **Elections:** Election of Steering Committee will be in the spring of 2024.
4. **Service Hours:** The current coordinator has taken an indefinite leave of absence. Lyn, Neal, and Catherine will meet offline to discuss a replacement candidate.
5. **Ant Treatment:** Possibly at the end of Sept or beginning of October. Need to recruit volunteers to lead and assist.
6. **Fall Plant Fundraiser:** Scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2023. Master Gardeners are scheduled to have a table.
7. **Compost/Soil Order:** Neal will follow up w PARD on whether they will be providing any amendments this fall. If not may explore whether Kinser Ranch is a viable source versus Whittlesey.
8. **Durable-bed Reassessment:** after an inspection by Neal of the 78 plots, 45 plots are deemed okay, 5 are questionable, and 28 plots have integrity issues. Given all the issues we’ve had with the current product [not compatible with climate, fragility, expense, zero response from manufacturer regarding maintenance] the remaining panels will be kept as reserve for future repairs.
9. **Donation Plot Rebuild:** In light of #7, the Durable panel material will not be used to rebuild the Donation plots. Lumber will be utilized instead. Debbie T and Neal will visit with a few lumber yards in the coming week to request material donation or discounts. Durable-bed brackets and hardware will be used to connect the boards. The Donation team has requested that 3 terraced plot configuration, drawn by Neal in 2021, be implemented.
10. **Exploring alternative virtual meeting options:** The council will explore the pros and cons of changing from Zoom to Microsoft Teams, or other virtual meeting alternatives. Must be have accessible desktop and mobile options, ability to accommodate a large group, preferably free, central host optional, expanded time limit beyond 45 minutes.

Action Items:

1. New plot coordinator Catherine will meet with Neal and Beth in order to get up to speed.
2. Dave will check on the screws on the donation beds
3. All should encourage members to attend Matt’s new “Wellness” get-together for meditation/mindfulness in the Oak Grove on Saturday morning 9/16/23 at 9 AM!

Motion to Adjourn was made, seconded, and approved.

Adjourned at: 7:45 PM