

Pine Street Community Gardens

Annual General Meeting

Date: February 20, 2011
Time: 4:00 pm, Kits Community House
Chair: Sarah Smith

Agenda:

1. Sharing garden success stories

Gardeners shared with the group their successes and failures over the past gardening season. Common problems included tomato blight, tomato theft, and rats eating food. Successes included new infrastructure in gardens (paths, etc), success with leafy greens.

2. Quorum: confirmed

3. Number of voting members in attendance: 14

4. Last year's AGM minutes: approved

5. Director's report

Sarah Smith went over the Garden's goals for 2010 (see below). Summary of progress:

- Ongoing admin work: we got new topsoil, woodchips, and the water system continues to function well (thanks to Gordon!)
- Website has been updated by Shelby
- Our waitlist (which contains 200+ people) has been revised – it is now an automatically-populated list, which cuts down on labour by Board Members significantly. Thanks to Shelby and Eric.
- We did hold four work parties this year, in March/May/July/October. Some were not well-attended, although we did make good progress on common areas. We would like to ensure that 2011's work parties are better attended – the new membership guidelines address this.
- We made and distributed garden membership cards (thanks to garden member Renee for the design!)
- We have done some initial investigation around garden signage, but this remains a goal for 2011.
- Toolshed: garden members decided on a design, which was designed by former garden member Kate Fretz. However, we don't currently have enough funds to pay for building supplies. Thus, 2010 was spent applying for three different grants to support the toolshed (Evergreen, Vancouver Parks Board, and VanCity). Although

we received positive feedback from all applications, none was funded. Most funders are very keen to support ongoing programming such as community workshops, but are not interested in funding capital expenses (e.g. lumber). Now we need to decide how to proceed: continue applying for grants, use our savings to purchase supplies, try other forms of fundraising, or abandon our plans for a member-built shed in favour of a pre-fab shed or shipping container?

- New garden guidelines: We have developed a set of draft guidelines based on those used by other local community gardens. They will be discussed and adopted at today's meeting.

6. Financial report:

Treasurer Ruth Chau was unable to attend today, but financial reports were distributed and discussed. **Financial report can be downloaded from our website: xxxx**

7. Elections: New board members

- Lulla Sierra Johns acclaimed as new member-at-large
- Catherine Munn is interested in being a section rep
- Michelle Boey has also expressed interest in joining the Board
- Carly Burton may be interested in helping with membership tasks – she will discuss further with Eric Jandciu
- Jamie Vala is interested in helping with website updates
- Adam Vaselivich is interested in being a section rep

All current and new members are encouraged to volunteer information about how they might like to contribute to the Gardens via the new garden guidelines document. What is your “specialty”? How can you best contribute your skills to the Gardens? Please let us know!!

8. Update on shed and future plans

Mark Burton shared his past successes with another voluntary organization in approaching businesses for donations. Many businesses will willingly exchange equipment or supplies in exchange for a small gesture of public recognition (e.g. an ad in the local newspaper, or placing their logo on a sign in the garden). We could approach local lumber companies (e.g. Windsor Plywood) for assistance.

Using a shipping container as a shed is still a viable option: since they are steel, they would be much more durable than pre-fab sheds, which may not hold up to the level of (ab)use we might expect at our public space. Adam Vaselivich has found shipping containers on Craigslist etc in the past for \$200 or so (see

http://groups.google.com/group/pinestreetgarden/browse_thread/thread/8ff824d44791ffc9/ad003c964a5b46f?lnk=gst&q=adam+shipping+container#adc003c964a5b46f).

Kate Fretz noted that Bistrot Bistro (located at 4th and Maple) holds “Karma Tuesday” nights where a percentage of their profits goes to a local charity. The idea is that you encourage all your friends and family to visit the restaurant that night, and the charity reaps some of the benefits. Kate will approach the Bistro to see if we could be their charity of choice.

9. New garden guidelines

The new garden guidelines have been developed by the Board, based partly on guidelines used by other community gardens in Vancouver. Overall, the goal of the new guidelines is to help ensure that we can maintain active membership in the garden, and that the gardens stay neat and tidy throughout the year. Members had the opportunity to raise questions or concerns about the new guidelines:

- What is the intent of the guideline relating to winterizing your garden? This is to help ensure that spent/dead plants are removed at the end of the growing season, pots and trellises are tidied up, and your garden is neat and tidy during the winter. It does not mean that you are prohibited from growing winter crops or maintaining an active plot during the winter months.
- A few more edits were made to the guidelines, re. timing for getting your plot ready in the spring, etc. These edits have been incorporated into the guidelines for 2011.

The new garden guidelines are available on our website: xxx

Garden Goals for 2010

Update the website
Update the notice board
Create better signage for the garden
Build the tool shed and communal gathering space
Revise our waitlist system
Hold four successful work parties (and keep the garden tidy)
Begin to form partnerships with community organizations and local businesses
Hold workshops