

Pine Street Community Gardens 2016 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held Monday 22 February 2016, 7:00 pm at 90-425 Carrall Street Vancouver

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Quorum

Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm with 15 members attending, and a Quorum reached. *Thank you to all who attended!* Present: Attendance list on file.

2. Adoption of 2015 AGM Minutes

Minutes of the 2015 AGM were put forward for adoption (Chair/Deb) and carried.

3. Adoption of 2016 AGM Agenda

Agenda for the 2016 AGM was put forward for adoption (Chair/Brent) and carried.

4. Open floor to members garden success stories

Members reported being happy to have new members, relief at having gotten through the CP Rail right-of-way issues, and shared some regrets over reductions in harvests due to summer water restrictions.

5. Board Reports

Chair's Report - Jeffrey S (Acting Chair)

- Sarah Penfold had stepped down as Chair due to personal reasons during the year, after which Jeffrey assumed the role of Acting Chair, with Brianne Miller coming forward to volunteer as Acting Vice Chair, with the support of the Board, both of whom would be seeking confirmation for a second term.
- CP Rail reconfigurations have been completed, and gardeners are reminded that any access to CP lands proper is considered trespassing. Our waterline remains a legal encroachment issue for which the new will consider a solution, likely with grant support required.
- A series of 20 new plots was constructed to expand the garden along the Park footage.
- The mural project has been completed and several community workshops were held over the past year.
- Plots are being reconfigured as it becomes possible, to a more standard 5'x10' dimension.
- A future pop-up park and new neighbourhood park are in the future.

- The board regrets we were not able to arrange a solid and mulch drop this year to to the CP disturbances, but are actively working on dumps (possible two) this years, and looking for permanent dump locations on both sides of the garden.
- The membership form has been amended to include proper conduct language.
- There will be no change to fees, but a motion is being put forward to reduce required hours.

Treasurer's Report - Joe S

- Joe presented the 2014 Financial Statements

Membership Administrator and Membership Coordinator's Report - Brent M

- Total plots in the garden: 83 (down from 92)
- We relocated about 12 gardeners from CP land to vacant plots
- We sent out 93 invitations to 68 waitlist members and signed up 25 new members.
- We had 14 work parties (plus shed painting, etc.) and together put in well over 800 volunteer hours.
- In January we sent members associated with 30 plots notices about insufficient volunteer work. Of those, 12 responded with further information that led to their memberships being renewed, 5 responded that they would be leaving the garden, and 13 did not respond and will be sent non-renewal notices in the coming days. At this time it looks like there will be 22 vacant plots to fill this year, possibly more if any other members in good standing decide not to renew.
- We have 147 names on the waiting list, 63 of which were added in the last 12 months.
- The membership forms for 2016 will be available on the web site and in your email shortly. Forms and fees are due March 31.

City/Park Coordinator - Adam V

- Park and garden integration, 4 years remaining of 5 year licence agreement, creation of new Park plots, return of beekeeper, matching fund grant, stewardship of fruit trees, area of PSCG responsibility in community park, gravel walkway at 6th Ave curb.
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Community Outreach Coordinator Report - Elaine J

- Update on art project, shed maintenance, community engagement

6. Motions before the Membership

Motion: to reduce the number of required volunteer hours from 12 to 8 hours, now that the extra work associated with removal of all PSCG gardens and assets had been removed to City property; was put forward (Chair/Becky Macleod), and carried unanimously.

7. 2016 Goals and Dates

Jeffrey listed the following Goals to be put forward to the New Board for consideration and action in 2016:

- Develop a new waterline strategy, possible in conjunction with a low fence along the CP right-of-way; Build composting bins in permanent locations; Arrange soil and mulch dumps; Actively pursue grant writing; Call for volunteers to assist with work parties and creating work party task lists; New weed whackers; Distribute David Hunter discount cards; Arrange for food at larger work parties; Issue regular newsletters and social media updates.
- Please note a number of recommendations were put forward by the membership at the end of the meeting, listed as Other Business, and will be addressed by the new board.
- The date for the first work party has been scheduled for Sunday, April 3rd, with subsequent work parties and other dates to be scheduled by the 2016 Board.
- Please check the website for monthly work party dates and times.

8. Elections

The following Board Members have resigned from their volunteer Board Positions:

- Jennifer M - Membership Administrator/Greeter
- Adam V - City/Park Liaison (please note Adam has kindly offered to remain an ongoing resource to support and assist the new Liaison)

Thank you Jennifer and Adam for your time and commitment to the PSCG Board!

Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair

- Jeffrey S and Brianne M put themselves forward for Chair and Vice Chair, and were confirmed by acclamation.

Thank you both for carrying on for a second term!

Election of Membership Administrator/Greeter - 2 years - responsible for tracking membership fee payments, maintaining membership list, assisting Membership Coordinator with work parties and tracking of work parties.

- Helen Trinh answered the call for nomination, and was elected by acclamation.

Election of City Park Liaison - 2 years - responsible for interface with City of Vancouver, community park staff, compliance with PSCG/Park agreement.

- Julia M answered the call for nomination, and was elected by acclamation.

Thank you Helen and Julia for joining the volunteers of the Board!

Jeffrey also noted that the 2016 Board would be calling for special volunteer support in the coming year such as grant writing, assistance with work party task lists, composting, and common area planning.

New PSCG 2016 Board

Jeffrey Staates, chair
Brienne Miller, vice chair
Joe Soluri, Treasurer
Brent Marykuca, membership administrator
Helen Trinh, membership coordinator
Elaine Jones, community outreach coordinator
Julia Macdonald, city/park liaison

9. Other business

- Joana B suggested creating an Instagram account in support of garden profile and grant writing
- Julia M suggested water efficiency and pollinator planting workshops.
- Jen R offered to provide membership support as a future understudy for the roles
- Brienne M offered to serve as compost 'warden'
- Follow up required on City Park commitments, creation of accessible plots rather than what for requests, pollinator gardening and watering workshops requests.
- UBC Farm interface suggested
- Tool sharpening requested
- Suggestion of greenhouse/starter house potential
- Update/amendments to overgrown community spaces recommended
- Fallow plots procedure recommended
- Possibility of bike racks queried
- Fixed time to work parties recommended
- Creation of running work party task list requested

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.