

CALL TO ORDER

Start the recording.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Welcome new Executive Officers and Board Members
2. Setting the tone for Open Board Meetings
3. President's Goals for 2023
 - a. Consistent/improved member communications.
 - b. Consistent/improved weed and invasive crop monitoring, communication, and follow up.
 - c. Regularly scheduled, seasonal gardening classes and related topics.
 - d. Push forward on driveway and parking improvements outlined in the WCG Master Plan through active fundraising.
 - e. Continue to foster good gardening practices and the growth of our friendly garden community through mentoring, a spirit of helpfulness, and more social activities for members.
4. Approve previous meeting minutes
5. Approve Treasurer's Report
6. Investment account
7. Board email distribution lists
8. Acknowledgements
9. Police motorhome update

NEW BUSINESS

(Submit Committee Reports and New Business Items to the President at least 4 days/Friday before the meeting.)

1. Change WCG Open Board Meeting day?
2. LGL: use of email and reports - Do we need a training refresher?
3. Fertilizer distribution
4. Compost distribution – Hazel
5. Farm Dirt – group order in February - Hazel
6. Broken kiosk - Wayne
7. Vacant bed procedure - Ray
8. Membership renewal / new members procedure - Ray
9. Weed and invasive crop monitoring; clarity on policies, member communication, enforcement - Franco
10. Monthly Volunteer Hours reports by email – Steve G
11. Education events for 2023 - Gary
12. Wildlife habitat - Kat
13. Antique dump rake
14. Memorial to Larry Frank
15. Field Trip to Fort Bend Ag Extension – rain tank and irrigation tour - Debbie
16. Tomato Tasting 2023 – Debbie
17. Other new business

- a. Five minutes max; get a vote/decision quickly or move to table to next meeting's Old Business with more information.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (To be attached to the Minutes.)

Apiary

Compost

Education

Membership

Outreach/Fundraising

Pocket Prairie

Site Maintenance

Specialty Gardens

Volunteers

Watering

ADJORNMENT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Westbury Community Garden 2022 Final Compared to Budget 2022

INCOME

	Budget	Actual
Grants, Fundraising, Contributions (3 yrs' average)	\$11,455	\$19,308
Garden Rental (60 beds x \$84)	\$ 5,040	\$ 4,813
Garden Volunteer Hrs. Paid (6 yrs' average)	\$ 440	\$ 255
Total Income	\$16,935	\$24,376

EXPENSES

Activities	\$ 1,050	\$ 68
Apiary	\$ 750	\$ 22
Grant-funded Projects (USDA)	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,525
Dumpster (\$181/mo x 12 mos. X 1/2)	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,277
Equipment/Structures (3 yrs. Average)	\$ 1,950	\$ 183
Fees (Legal, Bank, Professional)	\$ 320	-0-
Quickbooks \$26.65/mo= \$320/yr		
Fundraising Expenses (Grantwatch subscription)	\$ 200	\$ 315
Insurance	\$ 900	-0-
IT (LGL, Hostgator, GoDaddy)	\$ 550	\$ 780
Memberships/Subscriptions (Zoom, OHBA, ABA)	\$ 300	\$ 100
Paypal Fees (est. 3.5% increase over 2021)	\$ 188	\$ 113
Pest Control (3 yrs. Average)	\$ 144	\$ 335
Portapotty (\$68.35/mo x 12 x 1/2)	\$ 425	\$ 241
Printing, Copying	\$ 400	\$ 302
Site Maintenance/Repairs (3 yrs average)	\$ 808	\$ 1,869
Soil, Mulch, Fertilizer (3 yrs average)	\$ 659	\$ 657
Specialty Gardens (Butterfly Garden, Orchards, Pocket Prairie, North 40)	\$ 525	-0-
Supplies, Tools (3 yrs average)	\$ 460	\$ 384
Water (est. \$285 average/mo -no data)	\$ 3,420	\$ 3,003
Total Expenses	\$16,935	\$12,174
Net Gain Actual		\$12,202

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & FUNDRAISING REPORT

January 17, 2023

Community Outreach

- First Annual Founder's Breakfast **March 25**
 - Breakfast event on the WCG grounds
 - Presentations about WCG development, past, present, future
 - **Pay by seat or table of 8; Pricing - \$100/seat?**
 - Local businesses and civic leaders invited
- Tomato Tasting **June 3**
 - Fishbowl drawings for donated prizes

Fundraising

USDA NRCS

- Final reimbursement has been received. \$1107.15

Annual SeedMoney Campaign: Nov 15 – Dec 15

- Donations = \$3141;
- Matching grants
 - Strong Start = \$100
 - Challenge grant = \$400
 - Arnold Brownberry Oroweat match = \$1000
- Total \$4641
- Check arrived this week.

Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation

- Letter of Inquiry (LOI) submitted; decision on who can apply for a grant on Feb 20.

Small Grant Opportunity

- Constellation Energy
Matt Simon received another invitation to apply for a \$500 grant (May).
- HEB community support - \$300 in gift cards for Volunteer events. \$20/monthly volunteer day and \$50-60 for Volunteer Appreciation Day

Large grant possibilities

- Clif Family Foundation
Rejected
- Will apply again to Clif Family for operational support
- Will reapply for AARP Community Challenge (opens in January)
- CenterPoint Energy Foundation
- Cullen Foundation

Meeting with Dawn Blitz, professional fundraiser with Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy

Who do you know?

- We all have a responsibility to be salespersons for WCG. We should not be shy about telling friends and acquaintances how dedicated and passionate we are about our community garden. We should brag on how far we've come in 12 years and talk about where we want to go. I would like to give as many tours as possible this year in hopes that someone who knows someone who may sit on a philanthropy board will see all the potential in our 7-acre piece of land.

Do you know someone who might have friends in high places? Outreach/Fundraising can help you write an email, not asking for money or a donation, but asking if they have an acquaintance who might be on the board of a philanthropic board and might have 10 minutes for a quick inspiring story about WCG. We all need to help spread the word about our garden and all we do. You just never know when a friend of a friend of a friend might give WCG a personal introduction into the Houston philanthropy world.

Westbury Community Garden Membership Report 1/13/2023

Committee Members (Betsy Longoria, Steve Goldberg, Ray Sher)

1. Emails sent to ten members who owe fees for community service hours not completed. Six of the ten have paid via PayPal. Reminder emails will be sent on 1/15/202 to the four who haven't paid.
2. Emails sent to all members to declare if they intend to renew. As of 1/13/2023, 33 have declared to renew their membership. 20 have not responded. The C4-C5 group has decided not to renew due to lack of enough gardeners.
3. Emails sent to all members to pay their membership renewal fee. As of 1/13/2023, 10 members have renewed.
4. On Saturdays, January 21 and 28, renewals will be accepted at the community garden from 9 to 11, cash and check on both days and credit card on the 28th.
5. There are currently six vacant beds. The E9 is being reserved for elevation. The others (C4, C5, D11, D12, D13) are available for new members.
6. At the January business meeting, Membership will propose the establishment of a Clear-The-Bed-Team, with the purpose of preparing and maintaining vacant beds for new members. A process will be in place where Membership informs the CTBT when a bed is in need of clearing and when it has been assigned to a new member.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The classes committee has been formed. It consists of Hazel, Wayne, Shelly, Roy, Ray and I. We have another person we may be adding.

The committee came up with objectives for the coming year. We will be meeting again in February to decide who will implement these goals and when. We will be prioritizing this list.

We are planning a soil talk for February or March.

Submitted by Gary Edmondson

PRAIRIE, COMPOST & TREE REMOVAL REPORT

Mowing

The Westbury Pocket Prairie was mowed on Wed., Dec. 7 at the cost of \$550. The east field was also included in the mowing. The tractor operator brought a helper who trimmed at the prairie and at the east field.

Composting

Due to persistence from Rich, Betina, Hazel and George and with help from volunteers, particularly a high schooler named Ashton, the piles have been turned fairly frequently and the thermometers show good heat. The last turn was to combine two bins into one.

We will not have enough compost for all gardeners so we intend to do a drawing of the garden numbers including the special gardens and issue a 5 gallon bucket to as many gardens as possible. We will do this as soon as Betina returns on Jan. 23.

We also want to sell bagged Farm Dirt to the gardeners in February so that all gardens can be well enriched for the spring planting season.

Tree Trimming

My husband Allen Potvin helped cut down tallows that were growing along the north fence. Not all of the stumps have been treated but will be. We also cleaned up tree waste near and behind the motorhome. George, Mike, and Don helped to truck away the tree waste to a site in Westbury. The City of Houston has picked up all that tree waste.

There is a tallow tree out near the east fence near to where Larry parked his tractor. Allen girdled that tree with his chain saw. This will kill the tree but leave it standing as a food source for birds. Woodpeckers also like to find dead wood to make their homes in.

I hope to do more work around the trees along the east fence and the north fence to make more habitat for birds. Those trees were planted two years ago this January. I hope to see good growth from them this year.

The east field was seeded with wildflowers on Dec. 28. Rain came the next day. Expect to see a lot of blooms out there this spring.

Hazel Potvin

Bee Committee Report – January, 2023

- Due to the chilly weather, we have not inspected the hives since the last December. Opening the hives when the weather is below 60 degrees is hard on the bees, for it releases the warm, humid air that they need, as well as the scent of the essential oils that is in the wax. All of the hives had a good size population and adequate resources (nectar, capped honey, pollen) to last through the winter except for Jane Doe. She is the newest hive and is a Top Bar Hive. The population is lower than normal and her resources are minimal. Becky and Steve will need to provide Jane with sugar syrup every two weeks in order for the colony to have a chance to make it through the winter. Otherwise, either the cold will kill them, since they do not have enough resources to provide energy, or they could starve.
- All of the colonies survived the cold weather over Christmas, which is a relief.
- Amy Hunter has removed her hives which we provided space while she was remodeling her yard with fencing, patio, and other stuff. Becky, Steve, and Mike Blaha will do some rearranging of the hive layout in the spring. We are not planning on getting any larger than the five hives currently in place.
- There are several different folks, outside of WCG, that want to come and watch us work the bees. One lady wants to set up her own hives after she works with us for a while. So we are continuing our focus of education.
- We are hoping to be able to harvest honey this year, but that will depend on the weather and the nectar flow in the spring.

The Apiary Garden report has been provided by Kat

SITE MAINTENANCE REPORT

1/17/2023

Major concern is someone has struck the east side of the kiosk and the plexiglas has to be replaced. I am trying to find a cheaper solution for it's replacement. The prices from Home Depot and Builder's Square range around 70 to 100 dollars.

However, regardless of cost, it will soon be replaced.

Another concern is a report from a member that someone was observed stealing produce from many beds.

We need to remind gardeners to be alert and report and take pictures if possible of any suspicious activity in the garden, since thieves and vandals have been a persistent problem. A good reason to again think about obtaining a surveillance camera for the garden.

Wayne Slaikeu
Site Maintenance Chairman

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

- Specialty Gardens
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Watering Committee