

**Westbury Community Garden  
General Meeting Board Minutes  
February 21, 2023  
6:30 – 7:40 PM via Zoom**

In attendance, Debbie Gordon, Franco Posa, Wayne Slaikeu, Dorthy Smith, Steve Goldberg, Kat Elder, Virginia Livingston, Marcia Hartman, Julie Fordes, Peppur Triplett, Ray Sher, Betina Wolfowicz and Hazel Potvin.

- I. Call to order by the President, Debbie Gordon
- II. Old Business: We need meetings with more cooperation, problem solving and less arguing. Keeping the meeting to an hour, moving and productive. When presenting an issue be prepared, keep it short, organize your thoughts, and offer a solution that can be voted on.

On Wednesday 2/22/23 we will have a field trip to the Ft. Bend AgriLife Center to see their irrigation system and cistern. Buffalo Glass will install glass (\$140) for the kiosk on 2/22/23.

Fences - Valero and Heights at Post Oak apartments. The apartments are a hot spot for crime. The owner is non-responsive. City will take legal action against them. WAIC and District Attorney are aware of the fence openings onto our property.

Motor Home will be moved to HPD's property on 2/18/23.

- III. New Business: If more information is needed regarding a motion, it will carry over to the next meeting. **Please DO NOT USE "REPLY ALL"** when a discussion is between two people. Just hit **REPLY** to that person. Use bed numbers instead of people's name when discussing beds. Keep productive.

A **90-day CD** was discussed at the WAIC (Westbury Area Improvement Corporation) by Becky Edmondson. The 90-day CD at Chase and Frost banks have the best rates at 4%. It was suggested that the WAIC and Westbury Community Gardens combine their money, Westbury Community Garden contributing 75% (\$75,000) and WAIC 25% (\$25,000) for a joint CD. This would give us \$985.00 in interest after 90 days. We would split the interest 75% (\$738.75) to Westbury Community Gardens and 25% (\$246.25) to WAIC. We would need Becky Edmondson and Marcia Hartman's signatures to do this.

**Acknowledgements to Wayne Slaikeu, Hazel Potvin, George Rejsek, and Kat Elder for all their hard work throughout the garden.**

- IV. **Motion** was made to combine our money with WAIC (25%) and Westbury Community Garden (75%) for a 90 Day CD at Chase bank. The motion was approved.
- V. **Motion** was made to approve the January Minutes by Kat Elder and seconded by Frank Posa. Motion was approved
- VI. **Motion** was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Hazel Potvin and seconded by Kat Elder. Motion was approved.
- VII. **Motion** was made by Debbie Gordon to move the meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month. Meeting date will remain the same, the third Tuesday of the month. Motion was denied.
- VIII. **Motion** was made by Kat Elder to prohibit sunflowers, cypress vine, malabar spinach, morning glories, lamb's quarter, ragweed and henbit in the garden. Hazel Potvin and Ray Sher were against this. Motion was denied. Debbie Gordon directed our attention to the WCG website that addresses the above issues in membership documents, documents, garden rules 2/2023  
<http://westburycommunitygarden.org/documents/>
- IX. **Motion** – Motion was made by Kat Elder and seconded by Ray Sher to **prohibit** wild (common) and giant **sunflowers in beds and aisles**. Sunflowers can be grown in another location. Hazel Potvin and Ray Sher objected, seven in favor. **Motion passed**
- X. **Motion** was made by Kat Elder to **ban plants from foreign countries**, and **poisonous, toxic plants** i.e., belladonna. More education needed, to members, on foreign plants. Debbie Gordon - these plants **should be monitored**. Motion was tabled by Debbie Gordon and Marcia Hartman. Debbie Gordon directed our attention to the WCG website that addresses the above issues in membership documents, documents, garden rules 2/2023  
<http://westburycommunitygarden.org/documents/>
- XI. **Motion** was made by Debbie Gordon and seconded by Kat Elder to **forbid** Mosquito Joe from treating the garden (free). Motion was approved

## REPORTS

### A. Bee Committee Report – Steve Ewing – February 17, 2023

- Due to the chilly weather, we have only opened Jane Doe, the newest Top Bar Hive, and that was only to give it sugar syrup, to get them through the winter
- Once the weather gets warm, March or April, we will start checking all of the hives. We will also continue with our educating, by inviting non-current beekeepers to join us in our inspections
- I plan on make two or three Nucs, which are small Top Bar Hives. We will use those to put colonies that are removed from structures into. Then at a later date, we will sell them.

### Apiary Pollinator Bed – Kat Elder – February 17, 2023

Deadwood plant & Coral Vine pruning & weeding are a Priority for the 2/23 or 2/25 workdays. Frogfruit ground cover has provided winter protection for plants, insects & small animals.

Steve Ewing will be requesting Board approval for additional plantings around the Apiary.

### B. Community Outreach & Fundraising Report – Debbie Gordon – February 17, 2023

#### Community Outreach

- First Annual Founder's Breakfast **March 25**
  - Breakfast event on the WCG grounds; details on website
  - Shrub Mocktails bar
  - Presentations about WCG development, past, present, future (Becky E, Ray, Virginia)
  - Pay by seat or table of 8; Pricing - \$100/seat; \$750/table; \$500 Sponsor; \$1000 Underwriter
    - 2 Tables already pledged
  - Members, friends, local businesses and civic leaders invited
  - Volunteers need for setup, teardown, transporting chairs, etc. back to Tool Bank; serve food
  - Donations so far:
    - Panera Bread – coffee and condiments
    - San Jac Environmental/MicroLife
    - Southwest Fertilizer

- Johnny's Seeds
  - Urban Harvest
  - Farm Dirt
  - Books from former WCG member, Bob White
- Tomato Tasting **June 3**
  - Ray and Gary have seedlings for gardeners who want to participate in the Tomato Tasting
  - Fishbowl drawings for donated prizes

### **Fundraising**

Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation

- Letter of Inquiry (LOI) rejected  
TEGNA Foundation (KHOU11)
- Not accepting new projects; will continue to support current non-profit projects  
Small Grant Opportunity
- Constellation Energy  
Matt Simon received another invitation to apply for a \$500 grant (May).
- Costco - \$100 donation for Founders Breakfast  
Large grant possibilities
- Applied again to Clif Family for operational support; awards announced end of Feb
- Will reapply for AARP Community Challenge – March deadline  
Dawn Blitz, professional fundraiser with Willow Waterhole Greenspace  
Conservancy declined to take WCG as a client but will keep us in mind for other fundraisers.

### **C. Compost Report – Hazel Potvin and Compost Team – February 17, 2023**

North Bins

It took nine months (if you time it from when Yosef left for NYC in April) to January 2023 to produce decent quality compost. The effort was tremendous especially on Betina's part. She incorporated a lot of kitchen waste and turned a lot of piles. The bigger piles were usually turned under her guidance by Ashton, a student from HSPVA. Rich, George and I also worked the piles but not like Betina did. Because we have almost two bins of compost, we hope to give each garden a 5 gallon bucket of the homemade stuff. But gardeners will still have to buy Farm Dirt to enrich their soil. Betina would like to do a soil test to see what we can learn about our baby, I mean product.

## East Bins

George has been keeping an eye on the East Bins and has emptied all the bags in Bin #1 and Bin #3. He intends to clean out the middle bin for collection of garden waste. The leaf bins can be used for mulch as needed anywhere in the WCG. They will not be turned. If you want good leaf mulch, you would have to dig to the bottom.

Yosef is due to visit at 4 p.m. on Feb. 22

Hazel Potvin, Betina Wolfkowitz, Rich Keogh and George Resjek

### **D. Membership Committee Report – Ray Sher – February 17, 2023**

Renewals – everyone has renewed.

PIFF is processing a check for their three farms and collecting Gardener's Agreements

Gardener's Agreements – all but three processed. Working on it.

New members – Mike Rowan (Bed D13), Kaitlin Whiting in (Bed C4)

Open beds – D12, D11, C5, E9 (reserved for an elevated bed build).  
Fliers to attract new members have been printed. They will be distributed and posted. An article should appear in February Crier and Next Door.

The Clear The-Bed-Team has been established. Members so far – Marcia Hartman, Franco Posa, Isaac Spencer, Mike Blaha, Mike Rowan, Ray Sher.

### **E. Pocket Prairie – Hazel Potvin – February 2023**

Noreen and I took a look at what is growing at the Pocket Prairie. The first blooms are dewberries, crow poison (false garlic), and spiderwort. We particularly inspected for puccoon, an usual yellow flower that blooms early. We found its sprouts but it hasn't bloomed yet. We did find several kinds of milkweed. The biggest surprise of all was to find a cluster of Indian milkweed.

### **F. Specialty Garden Report – Kat Elder – February 2023**

**Butterfly Beds & B1 Pollinator Collection:** insufficient volunteers at last workday to plant additional seeds, weed & prune more deadwood.

**Orchards:** we believe our spring 2022 Citrus has survived the early 12/14/22 freeze, although the tops appear dead & leaves are gone. Will retain protective mulch, cover again if a late hard freeze & wait to see. Unable to get the few Kumquats or Satsuma varieties we hoped to get: still unavailable from UH &

Brazos nursery. Maybe in the fall. We have a donated Donut Peach tree to plant- March. And don't need more trees now.

**Wildlife Brush Piles:** using the branches & brush on hand, 2 of the larger piles were created. Mike, Don, Franco, Wayne & 1 high school volunteer helped me on the rainy 1/28 workday Central East fence pile. (Can't find my photos!). Mike, Franco & Wayne helped me on the central North fence pile, thanks to Betina & hubby for collecting base logs for us. Both piles will receive additions and the 2 Small North fence piles will be constructed when we can obtain larger diameter branches for the bases.

Purple Martins: as soon as the Male Scouts arrive, our team will open the Apartments in stages to reduce takeover by the invasive European House Sparrows. Houses were washed before winter closures last Fall.

Witnessed an unknown woman practicing her golf driving: lost her ball off line into or near the East fence pile & was mucking about near it- needs to use a golf driving range.

### **G. Site Maintenance Report – Wayne Slaikeu – February 17, 2023**

1. Lock on Shed 2. Due to complaints about difficulty to lock it, I determined replacing the lock was not the answer. I lubricated the lock and decided improper locking procedures are being used. To lock the lock, the combination must be set with the same numbers used to open it. Then close the lock and while holding it closed, scramble at least one of the numbers. Contact Wayne or Steve Goldberg or any other person that knows the combination, if you still have trouble, but **DO NOT LEAVE THE SHED UNLOCKED.**
2. One of the new faucets next to the north fence was discovered to have a regular handle and so Steve Goldberg will replace it with one that uses our water keys. Buffalo Glass will sell us the plexiglass we need for the kiosk for \$140. This does not include installation. If you want installation that's an additional charge.
3. A good example of why wild sunflowers should be banned is take a look at bed D-7. That bed has a history of huge sunflowers falling and blocking aisles and spreading seeds to many beds and aisles. At present, the bed is filled with sunflower seedlings and the aisles on both sides have sunflowers, even an aisle that was card boarded and mulched is growing them. I have pulled a dozen sunflowers out of the E-7 raised bed. We have enough trouble fighting regular problem weeds, to deal with a problem that could have been partially prevented.



XII. **Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**  
**Respectfully Submitted by Dorothy Smith – WCG Secretary**