

**Westbury Community Garden  
General Meeting Board Minutes  
August 15, 2023  
6:30 – 7:52 PM via Zoom**

In attendance, Debbie Gordon, Franco Posa, Wayne Slaikeu, Dorthy Smith, Steve Goldberg, Kat Elder, Betsy Longoria, Virginia Livingston, Ray Sher, Gary Edmondson, Betina Wolfowicz, and Hazel Potvin

- I. Meeting called to order by the President, Debbie Gordon.
- II. A motion was made to approve the July, minutes by Kat Elder and seconded by Ray Sher. The motion was approved.
- III. A motion was made to approve the July, Treasurer's Report by Ray Sher and seconded by Kat Elder. The motion was approved.
- IV. A motion was made by Frank Posa and seconded by Kat Elder to have the **Summer Potluck** on October 14 at noon. The motion was approved.

**Old Business:**

- V. **Chinese Tallow trees** – Debbie Gordon called 311 and reopen the Chinese Tallow tree ticket.
- VI. **Mulch** – The mulch project is complete. We will rebuild the E9 bed on our next workday 9/23/23.

**New Business**

- VII. **American Community Garden Association (ACGA) Tour** (9 a.m. 11:00 a.m.)  
The tour of 35 will start around 11:00 on 9/30/23. They will also tour PIFF's site ending with a box lunch under the pavilion. Would like to have gardeners put up scarecrows in their bed for this event.
- VIII. **New Light Church** - They wish to use the pavilion for a children's story hour. This would be children ages 4-5. They have liability. We can let them have a 2 - month trial period. Adult supervision is a requirement for use of the pavilion.
- IX. **Open House** – Ray Sher will give orientations to potential members, Kat Elder and Margaret Mitchell will talk about Native Plants. The Westbury neighborhood is invited to our open house. We will sell 20 jars of left over honey at the open house. Hazel and Betina will man the compost bin.
- X. **Sunshine and Wellness Class 9/2/23** (9 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) – Debbie Gordon accepted their request for use of the Pavilion.
- XI. **Constables** will drive by at dusk and ask anyone in the garden to leave.

- XII. **Willow Waterhole Music Festival is October 28, 2023** – WCG will set up a booth
- XIII. **Weeds** – Beds B8, D9 and E8 have been cleared and are available. A13 and C10 are in compliance. Sent weed letter to E2. Mint was removed. On the perimeter of the E beds weeds need to be removed from rubber mats.
- XIV. **TV news spot of our garden** - A man wanted to do a special on the garden but was off the phone when he realized we didn't have \$19,700 for production cost.
- XV. **Security Cameras** – Discussed 4 eyeball cameras for \$20.00, solar powered plus motion detector lights. Site Maintenance will check into these.
- XVI. **Signage** – Signage regarding use of the pavilion. Franco Posa will look into this.
- XVII. **PIFF** – Pierre is leaving in December.

## **Reports**

**A. Bee Committee Report – Steve Ewing – August 15, 2023 – No Report**

**B. Apiary Pollinator Bed – Kat Elder – August 15, 2023**

New Community Garden gardener & native plant grower, Margaret Mitchell, has volunteered & is helping in both SG, B1 & Bee Committee Apiary Pollinator bed.

**C. Community Outreach & Fundraising Report – Debbie Gordon – August 15, 2023**

## **Community Outreach**

- Met Beverly Barabin and her mother, an avid gardener, at WCG on
- American Community Garden Association conference  
HCC Alief Hayes Campus (Westchase area)  
ACGA needs 2 more tour bus guides (volunteers for 2 buses)  
One bus will tour another Houston garden, then WCG/PIFF for a short tour and box lunch
- Board to discuss having a neighborhood garden open house on Sept 30, the ACGA tour day.
- Inside The Blueprint TV Series requested to do a segment about WCG. Initial call on Aug 14.  
4-5 minute fast-paced TV spot; see  
<https://beon.insidetheblueprint.net/c/368322/?msID=26c2b095-ebc0-4261-ad4e-bbdc95ea3053>  
Airs nationally on Fox Business and Bloomberg News  
Potential to reach 2M Houston households

## **Fundraising**

### **Grant applications**

- O'Quinn Foundation grant – missed the deadline. Scanned copy of the Master Plan engineering drawing needed. (Got the engineering documents now.)
- CenterPoint Energy in progress; deadline August 18.

## **D. Education Committee Report – Gary Edmondson – August 15, 2023**

The Education Committee met this past Saturday. There were three of us at the meeting. We have decided to have two classes that would prepare us for Fall gardening.

**Zoom Fall Gardening:** September 16, 3pm

**Hands on Fall Gardening:** September 23, 9 am

I have asked for volunteers to step up for teaching.

We also decided that there should be an article going to the newsletter on planting Fall Tomatoes. That article will be sent to Debbie tomorrow.

## **E. Membership Committee Report – Ray Sher – August 15, 2023**

1. There have been no new applications for membership. We still have two who have been through an orientation and would like to start at the end of August. We'll do a follow-up orientation for those two, to both make sure they understand the obligation and rules and to reacquaint them with their commitment.
2. We expect that when the 100+ degree weather ends, there will be interest in memberships.
3. If there is a community day in September, we will be available to show perspective members through the garden and do orientations.

## **F. Pocket Prairie – Hazel Potvin – August 15, 2023**

The prairie continues to bloom with liatris. I have not actually walked in to check on it but I like what I see driving by because the blooms of the many flowers are good for the pollinators, both the bees and the butterflies. The tall grass also serves to conserve the soil during this drought.

Though the prairie won't be mowed until early December, the easement in between PIF and the prairie will be. The back field and maze will also be mowed in September to tidy up for the Tour expected at the end of the month.

## **G. Specialty Garden Report – Kat Elder – August 15, 2023**

Had 3 great HS girls (Claire, Mira & one named Jade, from Westbury HS) via Volunteers of Houston at the July workday after helping Betina. The soil in the

Beds are extremely dry, like concrete below the pine/leaf mulch. Soil forms deep cracks. I watered the day before, along with Beth who is assigned to the North butterfly bed/main orchard.

Not enough workday help to work on B1. The girls had a good time enjoying discussions on benefits of promoting beneficial pollinator plants, conserving wildlife & environmental resources/ removing and avoiding invasives. They wanted to return on Tuesday eve workdays and did so last week with Dorthy guiding them.

New Community Garden gardener and native plant grower, Margaret Mitchell, has volunteered and is helping in both SG, B1 & Bee Committee Apiary Pollinator bed.

Due to my difficult experiences watering the whole of the South BF bed (along with South Orchard) and the North fence Apiary bed (along with the grapevine, requiring switch to the longer hose), I asked Steve Goldberg to add a 2nd hose support to both the Apiary bed & E3 faucet. He quickly accomplished both and deserves many added thanks from the Watering group & Orchard Committee & the Board.

### **Request that:**

Garden Administration advertise monthly for a Watering Committee Manager, a Pest Control Manager and a member to research and recommend Solar powered security motion lighting for Pavilion and sheds and 2 game cameras.

At the 8-26-23 Workday, I need volunteers to help me cut & kill the rapidly spreading wild Persimmon & invasive Hackberry trees popping up.

## **H. Site Maintenance Report – Wayne Slaikeu – August 15, 2023**

Shed #2 was found unlocked. Since warnings they have not worked, will have to change the combinations of both sheds.

Since practically all aisles have new mulch, am thinking the Education Committee needs to send out a maintenance message on how to maintain the aisles to keep the aisles in good shape as long as possible because I still see things being done which will cause the aisle to get weedy quickly in spite of the hot weather we are experiencing.

# I. Treasurer's Report – Marcia Hartman – August 15, 2023

Westbury Community Garden  
Profit and Loss YTD Comparison  
July 2023

	TOTAL	
	JUL 2023	JAN - JUL, 2023 (YTD)
<b>Income</b>		
Garden Income		
Donations to WCG	15.00	1,720.15
Fundraising		14,427.95
Garden rental		5,219.20
Volunteer Hours Paid		572.00
<b>Total Garden Income</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>21,939.30</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$21,939.30</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$21,939.30</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Garden Operations		
Activities		26.01
Fundraising Expenses		1,815.14
Garbage/Trash/Dumpster	457.82	1,013.92
Garden printing, copying		10.01
Garden Supplies	184.38	285.03
IT		781.82
Legal/Professional/Bank Fees Fees-Stripe		107.56
Paypal Fees	0.92	144.45
<b>Total Legal/Professional/Bank Fees</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>252.01</b>
Memberships, dues		128.00
Pest Control		114.87
Portapotty		532.59
Raised Bed Project		1,832.39
Seeds		-70.48
Site Maintenance		357.10
Soil sales to gardeners		-984.50
Soil, Mulch, Fertilizer	700.00	2,185.00
Square Fees		18.06
Water	521.83	1,559.79
<b>Total Garden Operations</b>	<b>1,864.95</b>	<b>9,856.76</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,864.95</b>	<b>\$9,856.76</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -1,849.95</b>	<b>\$12,082.54</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -1,849.95</b>	<b>\$12,082.54</b>

Bank Balance of 6/30/23  
Operating Account \$32,183.93  
CD (WCG Portion) \$75,000.00

## **J. Volunteer Coordinator Report – Betina Wolfowicz – August 15, 2023**

I sent an email to all of our previous outside volunteers to participate in the humongous mulch project. Despite this effort, we only got 3 to 6 outside volunteers during July. And both Kat and I have sang the praises of these people because they were truly fantastic and did not mind the heat.

On the other hand, members did show up to help. Special thanks to Shelly and Roy who were promptly at 7:00 am every single weekend in July, led the effort and did a lot of the heavy lifting. Debbie's coordination was fantastic. Most of us bed owners attended the day when our aisles were weeded, cardboard placed down and mulched.

Thanks everybody, we got it done!

XVIII.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:52 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted by Dorothy Smith – WCG Secretary