

Westbury Community Garden Board Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026

President Debbie Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:35. Those present included Board members Debbie Gordon, Katharine Jager and Peggy Sweeney and committee chairs and garden members Betina Wolfowicz, Hazel Potvin, Ray Sher, Don Finley, Shannon Vitek and Julie Fordes.

Old Business

The January Board Meeting Minutes were approved by acclamation.

The February Financial Report from Marcia Hartman was also approved by acclamation. Debbie pointed out that our CD, which we share 75% (WCG) to 25% (WAIC), will mature soon and we'll get an interest payment.

Motion Sensing Cameras- Steve Ewing had gotten his own and installed it in the apiary. The remainder are on the shelf in Shed II awaiting installation by Don Finley.

New Business

Martin House Replacement

Kat Elder had submitted a proposal online to purchase a new, larger martin house for about \$1,000 to replace our irreparable one. Debbie explained that such an expensive project needs to be funded as a special project. There was discussion of previous expenditures, the initial donation of the

houses, why we need such a large house, the issue of not having expected housing for arriving martins, the difficulty of working with decrepit houses and the possibility of finding a grant. All agreed that the martins would be here before we got a grant.

A motion was put forth to purchase the house and look for a grant to cover the cost later. It passed unanimously.

Grapevine on the North Fence

Hazel Potvin reported that the tasty, productive grapevine on the north fence had outgrown its supports after 5 years of little maintenance. She recommended installing 4 4"-6" posts as supports, which would require an auger for post holes and a group to stretch the support cable. Julie suggested getting a donation of materials at the neighborhood Westbury Home Depot. They donated generously in 2024. Someone pointed out that the Pin Oak store and the Hillcroft/tollroad area store rent augers

Debbie suggested getting specifications and an estimate for approval next month.

Harris County Precinct I Plan Together Partnership Application

This large grant application is due 02/28/2026. Debbie Gordon and Katharin Jager have met with construction engineer Griselda Gonzales and are getting the document ready. They plan to post the document on the WCG site for information and a peek at the grant process. The \$800,000 grant would cover engineering construction expertise, resurveying and replatting the property, laying a gravel farm road and a permeable circle driveway with 7 parking spots by the E beds and 12 on the north side, installing a swale system and excavating a big detention area.

One of the questions on the grant application asked about other possible funding possibilities. Becky Edmondson recommended that we offer a 5% match for the grant. Forty thousand seemed like a good investment for a possible \$800,000.

Debbie emphasized the support we have gotten from the community -past monetary donations(among others, \$20,000 when Salem Lutheran closed) and testamentary letters from local leaders including Amy Brady from the Heights at Post Oak.

If we get the grant we will need to open a new account to house it specifically for construction funds and it might require BOMD control. Grant monies will be distributed in June.

A motion was made to earmark \$40,000 from our WCG funds to go toward our match of the grant. It passed unanimously.

Board members expressed appreciation for the time and effort Debbie and Katharine have spent on this project.

Farm Dirt Compost

We ordered 100 bags for \$650.00 and an \$80.00 delivery fee. At \$8.00 a bag, we took in \$850 with the \$200 difference covering delivery and the remainder going to the garden.

Delivered Friday morning, February 20.

Seed and Plant Sale at Bayou City Community Market

Debbie Gordon, Ray Sher and Nadia Kahn are helping to sell specialty miniature tomatoes and peppers at the booth from 9:00 to 1:00. Julie Fordes, Kat Elder and Peggy Sweeney are dropping off bluebonnets.

Levitt Music Festival 03/28, 11:00-8:00

We will need volunteers and will start recruiting in March. Our theme will be composting. Donors will get a twig pencil.

Mass SMS/MMS Software

This is a software piece that integrates with Little Green Light. It would be a subscription that would enable people to respond by text or email. We'd need to add a field to the enrollment form. We'd put the email online and people on texts would get information through links. We will visit this topic in more detail later.

Other New Business

Julie appreciated that Carlotta got to the nutrition class from a post on Facebook.

Hazel announced that her dear friend and Maplewood gardener, Margaret Gaddy, born in 1913 had died on Saturday at age 113.

Kat had a question about January's minutes concerning pavers from sheds. Debbie clarified that the pavers, some of which came from the E-beds, will be used to make steps for the containers. We will be looking for a rubber surface for the E-beds.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36