

LONG BEACH COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION (LBCGA)
Minutes of the October 2, 2023 Board Zoom Meeting

ATTENDEES: Greg Marcotte, Nancy Bernstein, Mary Sue O'Melia, Carol Meyer, Nancy Alperin, Alan Coles, Anita Cordova, Chuck Davis, Frank Dayak, Dan Freleaux, Doug Mullin, and Laura Otenti. ABSENT: Nina Burgeno, and Milton Johnson. MEMBERS PRESENT: None. Note – Kathy Jarvis resigned as Board 2nd Vice President on September 30, 2023. Quests: Jaimee Guoz, LA Beekeepers

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	Greg M. called the Zoom Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.	Call to order
Minutes of June 5, 2023 Minutes	Motion to approve the July 31, 2023 with corrections by Frank D. and second by Nancy B. Motion approved with the following correction: Conversion of Tax Status to 501(c)3 – clarification by Laura O. that paper work was submitted March 31, 2023.	Motion approved
Report of the President – Greg M.	<p><u>Potholes In the Road</u> – Greg M. noted that there are several potholes that he can outline with spray paint to identify for work prior to the rainy season. Dan F. agreed to assess the amount of work required for each and recommend action. Carol M. noted that City Infrastructure Funds may be available for projects such as these or road repaving in general.</p> <p><u>Pro-Active Approach to Dumpsters Stuck in the Mud for Winter</u> – Greg M. noted that pavers were used to keep one dumpster from sliding back into the mud but that there is a second dumpster on the West side of the garden. <i>Dan F. to assess whether bumpers or railroad ties are needed and if additional people will be required to help with this project.</i></p>	<p>No action</p> <p>Follow-Up Action</p>
Report of the Treasurer – Carol M.	<p><u>2023 – 2024 Budget</u> – An additional \$1,000 in revenue was deposited from new member revenues. Nothing exceptional in July or August. Anita C. asked about the budget for border boards for Food Bank plots. Carol noted that there is \$500 in the budget for border boards as well as money in the Partners of Parks fund balance. Chuck will submit separate invoices so that funds from Partners of Parks may be used for Food Bank plot border boards. Motion by Frank D. and second by Nancy B. to approve the Budget Report</p> <p><u>Conversion of Tax Status to 501(c)3</u> – Laura O. reported that she contacted the IRS Charities Division on September 29th (i.e., 180 days after our March 31st submission) to determine the status of our application. The person she spoke to flagged our submission for expedited attention, which means that someone should process our application within 45 days. <i>Laura will check the status in a few weeks.</i></p>	<p>Motion approved</p> <p>Follow-Up Action</p>

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Report of 1 st Vice President – Nancy B.	<u>New Membership & Plot Vacancies</u> – Nancy B. reported that there are 15 people on the wait list. Five new members completed orientation in September. There are five vacant plots, all of which require work except for F-01 which was recently vacated by Kathy J. Frank D. raised concerns about plot M-14 which has passed the 90-day notice period for clean-up. <i>Greg M. to follow-up.</i> Plots E-08, J-05 and N-06 need work party volunteer assignments Saturday, October 7 th .	Follow-Up Action
Food Bank Report – Anita C.	<u>Food Bank Report</u> – Anita C. reported that volunteers have really stepped up. Lots of green beans are still being harvested. A new volunteer starts on Wednesday; Friday is still open. Anita could use three people, including herself, at the upcoming work party. Plot Q-02 will not be planted until after installation of new border boards. Anita thanked everyone for their support.	No action
Report of Secretary – Mary Sue O.	<u>Work Party Report</u> – Mary Sue O. reported that the August work party had 16 people from 12 plots and five Board Members. Laura O. logged in the 10 people that attended the September work party. Assignments included the Food Bank plots and working on pathways and plots.	No action
Orchard Report – Alan C.	<u>Orchard Report</u> – Alan C. wanted to recognize the efforts of Tracy from plot H-11 who mulched the area around the gazebo. Two people are needed at the next work party to trim vines along the west road. Alan reported that the price of gypsum has skyrocketed.	No action
Old Business: 1. Plot B-04 2. Support for Food Bank & Orchard	<u>Plot B-04 Carpeting</u> – Greg M. reported that the gardener in Plot B-04 removed the carpeting as requested and replaced with wood chips. <u>Support for Food Bank and Orchard</u> – Alan C. needs assistance with mulching the orchard. Anita C. attended a meeting of food bank volunteers expecting to find out what produce was most needed. Anita reported that “fresh vegetables” was the reply.	No action No action
New Business: 1. Loop Replacement 2. LA Beekeepers Presentation	<u>Loop Replacement</u> – Carol M. reported that B&B did repairs and provided a quote for a new loop detector to open the gate. Doug M. will look at it. Alan C. explained how the loop works; clean out grooves and replace wire. Alan C. suggested that we obtain two other quotes and check Yelp ratings. Chuck D. suggested not to worry until the existing system fails. Carol M. noted that this may be a project for the City Infrastructure Fund. Alan C. agrees to let it go for now, noting that Board Members need to keep an eye out for palm trees that come up and need to be pulled. <i>Doug M. agreed to look at existing system.</i> <u>LA Beekeepers Presentation</u> – Carol M. introduced Jaime Guoz from LA Beekeepers. Colonies of bees can be relocated by LA Beekeepers which has been done in the past. A box can be set up in advance to make it easier for the bees to move on their own, reducing the number of swarms. LA Beekeepers can manage hives, do training and/or use the garden as a site to bring in bees. African bees escaped from a lab in South America in the 1990s. Since then, these bees have mixed with other bees. When aggressive Africanized bees are found, they are put down. There are no fees for partners as they use partner locations for classes. Carol noted that this is a good thing for a 501(c)3 organization. These free classes include Beekeeping 101 which meet once a month.	Follow-Up Action Follow-Up Action

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>New Business: Beekeepers (continued)</p> <p>3. Border Boards</p>	<p>Classes have ten to twelve students with advanced reservations for classes required. In other community gardens, Eagle Scouts built a 6' barrier (as required by the City of Long Beach) so that bees fly up and over as they migrate. Hives should be placed in the sun. Carol M. noted that an option for hive location is by the barn. Carol asked Jaime about insurance. He noted that Long Beach Organics has hives. Any stinging and they remove the hive. <i>Alan C. and Carol M. to schedule a day to meet with Jaime and look at potential locations.</i> Other Board Members are welcome to attend.</p> <p><u>Border Boards</u> – Chuck D. requested two people from the next work party to carry boards from the NE corner to food bank plots and to stack 2x4" boards on saw horses. Discussion on budget. Motion by Nancy B. and second by Chuck D. to add \$800 to the border replacement budget. Motion passed.</p>	<p>Motion approved</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn at 7:33 pm by Alan C. with second by Chuck D. Motion approved.</p>	<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>

Minutes updated for Board Member comments by Mary Sue O'Melia on November 25, 2023.