

**LONG BEACH COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION (LBCGA)**  
**Minutes of the November 27, 2023 Board Zoom Meeting**

ATTENDEES: Greg Marcotte, Nancy Bernstein, Mary Sue O'Melia, Carol Meyer, Alan Coles, Anita Cordova, Chuck Davis, Frank Dayak, Dan Freleaux, Doug Mullin, Nina Burgeno, Milton Johnson, Laura Oteni, and Douglas Budd. ABSENT: Nancy Alperin. MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Paul.

| <b>SUBJECT</b>                                      | <b>DISCUSSION</b>  | <b>ACTION</b>                           |
|---|--|---|
| Call to Order & Introductions – Greg M.             | Greg M. called the Zoom Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Greg introduced Douglas Budd who was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Kathy Jarvis. Douglas' plot is P-10 and he has been a member since 2012. Carol M. introduced Barbara Paul, an interested member who helps with the Butterfly Garden.  | Call to order                           |
| Minutes of October 2, 2023 Minutes                  | Motion to approve the October 2, 2023 minutes by Carol M. and second by Milton J. Minutes approved.  | Motion approved                         |
| Report of the President – Greg M.                   | Garden Reviews – Greg M. reported that rows A-I were reviewed with 25 reminders and two correction notices issued. The remainder of rows will be reviewed on Tuesday, afternoon.   | No action                               |
| Report of the Treasurer – Carol M.                  | <u>Current Budget Status</u> – Carol M. that the budget is doing well. Nancy B. has been a doing a good job of collecting fees for plot upgrades, which help to avoid a deficit at the end of the year. Expenses include a new leaf blower for Frank D. Tax forms for FY 2022 have been submitted and an electronic form will be uploaded to the website. Carol M. will provide an electronic copy of taxes to Alan C. We will need to get a new tax person for FY 2023. Motion by Frank D. and second by Milt J. to approve the Budget Report. Motion approved.<br><br><u>Conversion of Tax Status to 501(c)3</u> – Laura O. reported that she heard back from the IRS in October that the application had been assigned October 19, 2023 and will take up to two months to process. Laura O. will follow-up on the status. | Motion approved<br><br>Follow-Up action |
| Report of 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President – Nancy B. | <u>New Membership &amp; Plot Vacancies</u> – Nancy B. reported that seven people are on the wait list with six vacant plots. P-04 is almost ready for assignment. Greg M. reported that the new member in plot N-04 is ready to plant and has offered to help with plumbing, gopher control.<br><br><u>Other Garden Repair Items</u> – Chuck C. to look at roof in shed and will make repairs. Doug M. recommended diablo sawsall blades.  | No action<br><br>Follow-Up action       |
| Report of Secretary – Mary Sue O.                   | <u>Work Party Report</u> – Mary Sue O. reported that the October work party had 20 people from 14 plots. October activities included helping with the Food Bank and working on plots/pathways E-08, J-16/17, J-05, and N-06. The November work party had 49 people from 28 plots. Activities included Food Bank and trimming the west fence. Plots/pathways weeded include K-08, F-19, J-17, N-04, G-07, M-18, D-06, N-16, B-05 and start of work on J-05. Carol M. reported that 80 plots still do not have the two hours required by the end of December. Greg M. reported that 20 plots have signed up thus far for the December work party.  | No action                               |

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|---|---|--|
| Food Bank Report – Anita C.   | <u>Food Bank Report</u> – Anita C. thanked Chuck C. for the new raised beds, and Nina B. for help with harvesting beets, carrots, and peas. Anita C. reported that there are seven volunteers for seven days, as well as one teen volunteer in the evening, two times a month. Working forward, two people will be assigned Saturday and Sunday during the winter, but three volunteers for Saturdays/Sundays during the summer. Nancy B. tells new gardeners to call Anita C. if they choose Food Bank.  | No action                                |
| Orchard Report – Alan C.  | <u>Orchard Report</u> – Alan C. reported that netting is keeping the racoons out of the persimmons.   | No action                                |
| <p>Old Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Loop Replacement</li> <li>2. Beekeepers Decision</li> </ol>          | <p><u>Loop Replacement</u> – Doug M. did not see any frayed wires. The eastside works; the westside has never worked. Cost is approximately \$2,000 to repair. Keep as is until the eastside fails.</p> <p><u>Beekeepers Decision</u> – Jaime Guoz from LA Beekeepers met with Board Members to review locations. Plot Q-15 and the Butterfly Garden were two locations suitable for a hive. A cloth enclosure around the box is recommended and is a project for the Boy Scouts. Bees recognize the beekeeper (voice and smell) and live about six weeks. Frank D. asked about liability if someone is stung. Carol M. replied that the insurance broker for the LBCGA had reviewed our policy and we are covered. Doug M. suggested that honey from the hive be raffled off at the picnic or given to volunteers. Motion by Carol M. and second by Doug M. to put beekeeping boxes in the Butterfly Garden. Motion approved.</p> <p>In a separate related issue, there have been reports of bee swarms in the O and P rows. We may need a few temporary boxes if this continues to be an issue.</p>   | <p>No action</p> <p>Motion approved</p>  |
| <p>New Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thieves in the Garden</li> <li>2. Emails to Board Members</li> </ol> | <p><u>Thieves In the Garden</u> – Alan C. noted that mandarins and persimmons have been stolen from the orchard. People are also stealing from gardens. The by-laws specify that members caught stealing are subject to termination. The Board reviews the evidence and votes on the termination. A terminated member may then appeal to the Board. People taking too much fruit from the community table in the gazebo is a different issue. Alan C. proposed that when there is an observation and/or complaint of theft by garden members, that the member not be approached until the Board has had the opportunity to investigate and set up cameras to validate or refute the complaint.</p> <p><u>Emails to Board Members</u> – Greg M. noted that he had not been getting emails. Nina B. replied that the LBCGA website has five accounts that get redirected. The problem was that the info mailbox was full. Nina B. cleared the info mailboxes by redirecting to the appropriate Board Member. Nina will continue to monitor on a regular basis and will review permissions and who may assign permissions to update information. Alan C. brought up the issue of posting items on Dropbox. Currently, the Dropbox account is for a single user under Nina B. login credentials. Nina B. will investigate the cost of a multi-user Dropbox account. Alan C. wants to be able to provide a link to Board Members so that they may view pictures and videos related to thieves in the garden.</p> | <p>No action</p> <p>Follow-up action</p> |

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|--|---|---|
| <p>New Business:</p> <p>3. EcoBran Grasshopper Bait</p> <p>4. New Cookbook from Members</p> <p>5. Issues Brought by Members:</p> <p>a. Foodbank</p> <p>b. Anonymous Letter</p> <p>c. Membership Termination for Stealing</p> | <p><u>EcoBran Grasshopper Bait</u> – Nina B. was investigating the purchase for the garden of products for pest management. EcoBran kills grasshopper fast but is currently banned in CA because it contains a low percent of the chemical carbaryl.</p> <p><u>New Cookbook from Members</u> – In the past, there was a cookbook with favorite recipes from members. A member posted this on Facebook and as a result there have been requests for a copy of this book. Anita C. volunteered to review the cookbook and give her opinion to the Board.</p> <p><u>Issues Brought by Members – Food Bank</u> – Anita C. noted that deliveries from the garden to the food bank are growing. A new member provides part-time food bank delivery and part-time help with the food bank garden. Anita C. asked if the Board would consider waiving annual garden fees for those providing more than the four required work party hours. The by-laws specify that garden fees may be waived for Board Members. Exceptions for other members do not exist. Carol M. asked if the new member would be interested in serving on the Board.</p> <p><u>Issues Brought by Members – Anonymous Letter</u> – Nancy B. presented a letter received from an anonymous member asking the Board to deal with a member who accused another member of stealing persimmons from the community table in the gazebo. Since all parties involved are anonymous, the Board will not be able to act.</p> <p><u>Issues Brought by Members – Membership Termination for Stealing</u> – Alan C. brought up stealing issues by members of two separate plots. Plot D-04 member was identified as stealing in 2018 but was not terminated. Someone contacted this member and they quit stealing until recently. Alan C. to send pictures to Board of D-04 member stealing mandarins so that a determination may be made. Plot B-18 member was identified as stealing persimmons from the orchard. Alan C. to send pictures to the Board so that a determination may be made.</p> | <p>No action</p> <p>Follow-up action</p> <p>Follow-up action</p> <p>No action</p> <p>Follow-up action</p> |
| Adjournment  | Motion to adjourn at 8:19 pm by Chuck D. with second by Mary Sue O. Motion approved.  | Meeting Adjourned   |

Agenda Item New Business 5c had a follow-up action for pictures and other evidence to be presented (via email) to Board Members so that a decision could be made regarding two separate membership terminations for stealing. The following documents action taken on between November 27 and December 1, 2023.

| SUBJECT                             | DISCUSSION   | ACTION  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Membership Termination for Stealing | <p>Alan C. made a motion and Anita C. seconded the motion to terminate Plot D-04 membership for stealing mandarins from the orchard. Motion approved.</p> <p>Alan C. made a motion and Anita C. seconded the motion to terminate Plot B-18 membership for stealing persimmons from the orchard. Motion approved.</p> | <p>Motion approved</p> <p>Motion approved</p> |

Draft Minutes prepared by Mary Sue O'Melia, January 9, 2024 and updated January 22, 2024.