

LONG BEACH COMMUNITY GARDEN ASSOCIATION (LBCGA)
Minutes of the July 31, 2023 Board Zoom Meeting

ATTENDEES: Greg Marcotte, Nancy Bernstein, Kathy Jarvis, Mary Sue O'Melia, Carol Meyer, Nancy Alperin, Alan Coles, Anita Cordova, Frank Dayak, Dan Freleaux, Doug Mullin, and Laura Otenti. ABSENT: Nina Burgeno, Chuck Davis, and Milton Johnson. MEMBERS PRESENT: None – Notice to members of this meeting was not provided due to an oversight resulting from a change in the meeting date (i.e., week earlier than normally scheduled).

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	Greg M. called the Zoom Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.	Call to order
Minutes of June 5, 2023 Minutes	Motion to approve the June 5, 2023 with corrections by Carol M. and second by Frank D. Motion approved with the following corrections: (1) Wheelbarrow Inventory – First sentence changed to “Greg M. reported that two of the older four-wheel carts, three new carts, and some wheelbarrows are missing.” (2) BBQ for Annual Picnic – Last sentence changed to “Alan C. had concerns that the item was purchased before everybody had a chance to review and comment on the motion.”	Motion approved
Report of the President – Greg M.	<p><u>New Cameras</u> – Greg M. reported that all security cameras are operational, including one with a good view of the green shed.</p> <p><u>People In the Garden Stealing</u> – Greg M. reported that a man stealing fruit came in over the fence by the green shed between 12am and 5 am. Security incidents include: (1) two people on July 4th; (2) one person July 27th; and (3) 2 people on July 28th.</p> <p><u>Annual Picnic</u> – Greg M. reported that there were 205 attendees from 71 plots. Fidel won the 50/50 raffle and salsa contest. More than 30 raffle prizes were awarded and everyone enjoyed seeing the Model-Ts. \$654 was taken in from \$5 fee for extra attendees, t-shirt sales and sale of raffle tickets. Thank you to all those who provided service including: Greg, Carol, and Kathy for set-up; Dan and Doug for cooking; and Anita and Nancy for tasting tables. Great team effort! A subcommittee to discuss how to improve future picnics was established, with Doug, Greg, Carol, Kathy, and Anita volunteering.</p>	<p>No action</p> <p>No action</p> <p>Subcommittee formed</p>
Report of the Treasurer – Carol M.	<p><u>2023 – 2024 Budget</u> – Current expenditures for this year include \$2,200 for repair of the line break in the SW corner. The contractor who did the water plumbing upgrade last year had someone out to make the repair within two hours. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Nancy B. with a second by Dan F. Motion approved.</p> <p><u>Conversion of Tax Status to 501(c)3</u> – Laura O. reported that she contacted the IRS Charities Division and we are in the queue. The IRS has 180 days to process the paperwork which was submitted March 31, 2023.</p> <p><u>Renewals Update</u> – Completed middle of June with a few paying late fees.</p>	<p>Motion approved</p> <p>No action</p> <p>No action</p>

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Report of 1 st Vice President – Nancy B.	<u>New Membership & Plot Vacancies</u> – Nancy B. reported the last new member orientation was July 24 th . Another orientation is scheduled in the upcoming week. Community service hours to be assigned if new member cleans up plot (e.g., E-15). There are 11 people on the wait list and four plot vacancies. J-5 and J-16 are in poor condition.	No action
Report of Secretary – Mary Sue O.	<u>Work Party Report</u> – Mary Sue O. reported that the June work party had 12 people from 11 plots and 7 Board Members. Laura O. logged in the few people that showed for the July work party. People need to be reminded that they must complete two of their four community service hours by the end of December.	No action
Food Bank Report – Anita C.	<u>Food Bank Report</u> – Anita C. reported that 60-70 tomatoes were provided for the annual picnic. Left overs from the picnic were taken by Frank to the Anaheim St. shelter. Dan Wheeler from Cal Poly started the tomato plants and donated them to the garden. Plots Q01-03 and Q05 need help from more people. Need people to deliver to the Rescue Mission. Volunteers may get permanent assignment and community service hours working on food bank plots and/or making deliveries to the Mission. Discussion of renting our Q-05 to reduce work load. Other options are: (1) hire help using funds collected from people who cannot work the required community service hours; and (2) get group of students to volunteer.	No action
Orchard Report – Alan C.	<u>Orchard Report</u> – Alan C. reported that netting for putting around trees had been purchased but it is labor intensive effort. Alan could use more help. Suggested that a call for volunteers be put on Facebook with a reminder that each plot must have two community service hours by January 1 st .	No action
Old Business: 1. BBQ for Annual Picnic	<p><u>BBQ for Annual Picnic</u> – Alan C. raised the issue that the purchase of the BBQ for the annual picnic was completed without full Board discussion. On July 6th, Kathy J. made a motion to purchase the grill from Amazon and Carol M. seconded. Alan C. read the string of emails at 8pm that night to find out that purchase of the grill had been approved and the purchase made before he had even read the email. Alan noted that he found a local rental for about \$132 which would support local business and have a lower carbon footprint. Alan suggested that future voting outside of advertised meetings would require ample discussion and would proceed only after a motion to end discussion/call for the question.</p> <p>Mary Sue O. noted that it may take 48 hours for all members to vote but in general, most motions pass with seven votes the same day of that the motion is made. If the motion is generating a lot of discussion, the President has the option to hold the vote over to the regular meeting. The process followed was the same for the other two motions approved outside the regular meeting in the past month. Laura O. noted that extensive emails would be required to follow Robert's Rules of Order for motion to end discussion/call for question. And then a second vote on the motion itself.</p> <p>Kathy J. noted that prior to purchase, she contacted four rental agencies but none had a BBQ available for the day we requested. Lakewood Rentals wanted \$130 to rent plus \$50 to deliver and \$30 to clean. They would not be able to pick up until the next day and we would be responsible for securing BBQ overnight. Kathy J. investigated the cost of BBQ recommended by Frank D. but the price was over \$4000. Carol M. noted that seven yes votes for approval came in prior to Alan's email raising concerns.</p>	No action

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<p>Old Business (continued) 2. Dirt Pile</p>	<p><u>Dirt Pile</u> – Greg M. reported that the dirt pile was removed for \$1,500 as approved by the Board. The other bid was for \$8,000.</p>	<p>No action</p>
<p>New Business: 1. Support for Food Bank & Orchard</p> <p>2. Plot B-04 Carpeting</p>	<p><u>Support for Food Bank & Orchard</u> – Anita C. noted that volunteers for food bank are permanent assignments. Alan C. noted that he has two permanent assignments and this is enough. Mulching occurs in the fall. It was noted that if we pay people to work in the garden, we need WC insurance. That is why we should look at hiring a company rather than individuals. Other options include: (1) increase the hours required for community service; and (2) have a scholarship program or student program where they earn credits for working in the garden. A presentation of this second option to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Plot B-04 Carpeting – Greg M. noted that B-04 has artificial turf in their plot and was asked to remove it as it violates the rules (e.g., no carpeting allowed). Chips may be used under chairs rather than carpeting/artificial turf. Discussion about clarifying language that items stored in the garden must be have an agricultural purpose (e.g., covering for week abatement), and be specific to vegetable production. A motion was made by Nancy B. and seconded by Anita C. to inform B-04 that the Board has deemed that artificial turf/carpeting violates the Rules and must be removed. Motion passed. In the letter notifying B-04 of the Board decision, it should be noted that B-04 may attend the Board meeting on October 2, 2023 at 6:30pm via Zoom to appeal this decision. In the interim, the artificial turf/carpeting must be removed. The Board will convene a Rules Committee in January comprised of Board Members and gardeners. A request for volunteers will be posted on Facebook. The Rules Committee may suggest clarifications regarding what is “gardening appropriate” items allowed in garden plots. Dan suggested providing incentives for garden members to participate in this process.</p>	<p>No action</p> <p>Motion approved</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn at 8:01 pm by Alan C. with second by Nancy B. Motion approved. The next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on October 2, 2023 on Zoom.</p>	<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>

Minutes prepared by Mary Sue O'Melia on October 2, 2023.