

Harvest Farm Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

6:00PM



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Opening items

- Call to Order [Meeting called to order at 6:03PM](#)
- Adoption of Agenda [Agenda adopted](#)
- Approval of June Minutes [Minutes approved](#)

Recurring Topics

Section	Owner	Latest Update	Next Actions / Discussion Points
Financial Report	Eileen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden remains in good financial health • Alex stated that he is working on a comprehensive “How To” document regarding garden oversight. The garden approved suppliers will be part of that. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete garden approved supplier list with addition of rock supplier and Lowe’s specific hose (Alex)
Calendar Review	Kristen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board voted to move the August work day to August 19 due to college move in and various commitments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send work day reminder to gardeners (Kristen)
Learning Sessions	Alex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill agreed to host another Walk Around learning session at August 19 work day • Bill suggested Stella Del Ora day lilies as they bloom all season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get day lily bulbs (not until Sep/Oct work day)
Orchard Updates	Roger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear whether water has been run to the scout project table in the Orchard • The horticulturist is unfortunately unavailable to help this year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None for garden board. Orchard board meets separately

Board Business

Section	Owner	Latest Update	Next Actions / Discussion Points
Workday	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board agreed on the following tasks for August work day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rolling bin assembly & painting ○ Spreading gravel ○ Weeding (weeding, weeding) ○ Fixing netting to protect snakes ○ Clean signs • Board also agreed to meet at 8AM and walk the garden together to make yellow and red plot determinations 	Send reminder for work day (Kristen)

Section	Owner	Latest Update	Next Actions / Discussion Points
Plot Warning Stakes & Plot Transfers	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristen provided overview of work in process for plot renewal process. She will handle all communications, but will require board support for plot allocation • Eileen noted that we will need new yellow and red stakes for next year and expressed dismay at the state of the garden. It was agreed that gardeners will sign an agreement for general plot maintenance when they pay their invoice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the Requirements to Garden document and provide to city of Suwanee for inclusion in the invoice mailing. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Plots must be free of weeds taller than 2" 2) Dead plants must be removed promptly 3) Infestation of pests and diseases must be treated immediately 4) Plantings must not encroach into other gardens or on walkways
Social Committee	Valerie, Elle, & Sara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elle reported on planned fall events including Fall Fest and Halloween. Though these will be targeted to children, it was agreed that they should be open to the whole community. Gardeners can be solicited to volunteer or donate, but we should not expect much participation. It was agreed that there can be a starting budget of \$250 for each project, and Elle can reach out to the board in WhatsApp if she needs more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Fall Fest and Halloween event (Valerie, Elle, Sara)
New Signs	Eileen, Ken, Kristen S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We ran out of time to clean signs at the June work day. Carry over to August • Decision was made to remove the berry patch given the broken lattice and need for the plot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Public Works contact so board can order new signs (Billqeece) • Add Public Works sign contact to master approved supplier list (Alex) • Dismantle the berry garden (Team)
Stand Up Garden	Kristen		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put Stand Up garden in plot assignment list (Kristen)
Garden Quilt	Kristen	Board signed a thank you note for Rita.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove this line item from future agenda (Kristen)
Garden Plot Expansion	All	The board agreed to review the number of returning gardeners at the next meeting. The board also agreed that we should reach out to the waiting list (30 people in the spring) before opening to the community. The lean is to expand the garden, but final decision will be made next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make decision on plot expansion activity and timeline to start (All) • Reach out to Roger for updated expansion quotes (Alex)
Maintenance		Billqeece said that the gate repair can be covered by Alex and Jeff and doesn't require public works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix the rickety gate (Alex/Jeff)
Board Business		Eileen showed pictures of an erosion issue near the stair case and rotting garden beds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for erosion repair (Bill)

Section	Owner	Latest Update	Next Actions / Discussion Points
		<p>Bill noted that the city can fix the erosion issue (not an emergency). Repairing the rotting beds could be a Scout project</p> <p>Alex sent out a mission statement review in June that somehow everyone missed. Doc on WhatsApp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask Jim about possible Eagle scout project to repair beds (Alex) ● Review and respond to Alex missions statement (All)

Discussion: Potential Harvest Farm Garden Plot Expansion

Overview	<p>Harvest Farm currently has 75 plots. We have the space and money to install 30 more plots, but we are not sure if we should expand. We do think that there is demand for more plots, as Suwanee is growing. However, there are also potential downsides to expanding, such as losing use of the current grassy greenspace.</p> <p>The decision of whether or not to expand our community garden should be made after careful consideration of the potential benefits and drawbacks. We will need to weigh the potential benefits against the potential drawbacks and make a decision that is in the best interests of the garden and Suwanee.</p>	<p><i>Opportunity does not equal obligation.</i></p> <p><i>Stewardship is using resources wisely for the benefit of others.</i></p> <p>Quotes to consider....</p>
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Section	Potential Benefits	Potential Drawbacks	Discussion Points
Increased capacity	Accommodate more gardeners Meet the growing demand for community gardens in Suwanee Provide more opportunities for people to learn about gardening and healthy eating Promote community health and well-being	Loss of green space Additional Board burden (?)	How has the green space been used in the past? How can we estimate demand? (wait list time, etc.).
Increased revenue / costs	Generate more revenue for the garden Fund additional programming or improvements	Increased maintenance costs	Increased revenue is not our primary goal. As good stewards, we should have a plan on how we would use the funds (ideas?). Alternatively, we could reduce fees.
Increased community engagement	Provide more opportunities for community members to get involved in gardening. Promote social interaction and civic engagement. Build a sense of community pride. Provide a space for people to learn about and appreciate the environment.	None (?)	Let's revisit our current mission statement. Also, Ken's ideas on revising it.
Increased environmental benefits	Provide increased habitat for pollinators. Promote sustainable agriculture.	None (?)	

Section	Potential Benefits	Potential Drawbacks	Discussion Points
	Serve as an example regarding the importance of environmental stewardship.		