

Duluth Community Garden Board Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2008

Members Present:

Christine Dean
Marian Syrjamaki-Kuchta
Kate Nicoletti
Stacy LaVres
Dan Kislinger
Carol Hill- Perkins
Sharon Rogers
Katie Hanson
Carrie Slater Duffy

Also visiting was Kristen Stuchis interested in possibly becoming a board member.

Members Absent: Gloria Piche

Dan read the mission statement. Stacy motioned and Dan seconded to approve the minutes for January.

Land Committee:

The group met on January 21st and Feb 4th. Notes from their meetings were submitted. They want to concentrate on 4 garden sites and sponsorship at these sites. The next meeting is March 17th.

Director's Report:

Carrie has chosen Katie Hanson as the program coordinator. She started last Friday and introduced herself at the meeting. Carrie handed out the projected vs. actual budget. She reported that \$1120.00 has been raised from the end of year fundraiser letter. Carrie reported that she had a discussion with Dave Hopkins from the SFA to plan to work on some projects together. Katie is a board member on the SFA. Carrie handed out and discussed our Strategic Plan. She had a few questions that the board encouraged her to contact the consulting group that helped us put it together. Carrie reported that she was contacted by a Scholastica student from Uruguay named Lorena Rodriguez who is interested in doing a project working with kids and the environment. She will keep us updated on this project. Sharon and Carrie attended a United Way Event last week about our funding. The meeting went pretty well. Carrie also reminded us that we need to spend some of the SMDC grant money possibly on materials for the kids garden and supplies for the cannery.

Newsletter Committee:

The new deadline for articles in February 15. They can be sent to Lisa VanLanduyt who is assisting with editing. Her E-mail is lvanlanduyt@Yahoo.com Her phone is 722-3201.

Tree sale:

The orders are starting to come in. The deadline is April 1st. Dan will check on the availability of the farmers market to see if it is available a few days before the market opens so we can

distribute orders and hopefully sell the extra trees and shrubs on opening day of the market in mid May.

Membership Committee:

No report from this committee.

Seed Committee:

The seeds have been ordered. We will need to plan a seed-packing workday in April. Hopefully we can have Woodland Hills kids help again as they have with past years. Last year we met and worked in the office. Dan ordered some organic fingerling potatoes from Fedco. The transplants will be ordered through Barb Holliday again this year. Katie will contact her about what she will be offering so we can put it in the newsletter. Also

Carrie reminded us that the co-op [Whole Foods Co-op] was going to donate 10 cents a pack for seeds they sold last year but we never received anything. She will follow up on this and also if they will do it again this year.

Truffle Sale:

The sale is underway as we speak. Jennifer will be selling truffles 2 more times this week. Different board members and volunteers have helped with the process. Kate pointed out what a huge amount of work this is for Jennifer and how much of her time she donates. It was suggested that we do something extra to thank her for this. Sharon will follow up. The last 2 years we made more than \$700.00 on this sale.

New Business:

There is a new person hired to set up the worm composting classes in the schools. His name is Jim Neus. We are still looking at finding new board members and the board is still in touch with several community members that may be interested. Marian, Carrie and Carol attended a workshop called "Super Size Your Fundraising" given by Boris Frank. They all thought it was an excellent workshop. Marian helped summarize some of the concepts including: Asking board members to contribute (financially) whatever they can to the organization and thanking all donors by phone and by mail within 48 hours of receiving the gift. Also they learned about Foundation Finders (i.e. through the Chamber of Commerce or the United Way), rolling grants, endowments and a reminder to keep your Strategic Plan visible amongst other things.

Minutes submitted by Kate Nicoletti