

POSH SQUASH STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes: September 02, 2021

This meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom.

Les Grober called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. In attendance were Amy Van Syoc, Barbara Gomes, Bill Mutch, Bonnie Coffey-Smith, Dennis Pedersen, Eileen Kallaway, Gretchen Meyer, Harriet Rose, Jeanne Walker, Jim Nybakken, Jody Nunez, Les Grober, Marcia Nybakken, Paddy Batchelder, Paul Mundy, Roberta Boomer, Roy Leon, Tristan Colson, and Ursula Waskey.

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Tristan

- a. The September 2021 Meeting Agenda was approved.
- b. The July 2021 Steering Committee Minutes were approved as submitted, and will now be uploaded to the website.

2. Chair's Report: Les

- a. Covid Status – the pandemic continues. Some days have decided to be conservative about break time and snacks, either by stopping them entirely or deciding to sit further apart.

The question arose about whether we should continue to allow visitors to the garden, either with a garden member (which is what the signs on the gates indicate), or unaccompanied, or not at all. This is both in the context of pandemic safety, but it was also mentioned that gardeners in the garden on weekends have often seen non-members who appeared to be picking them, both in the garden and in the hoophouse.

Some suggestions were:

* revisit the question of locking the gates on weekends (which we voted in favor of last year, but did not implement)

* put a sign on the hoophouse that says something like “Absolutely no admittance”

* change the signs on the gates to reflect whatever we decide

ACTION: No decisions were made, but Les to determine whether to send an email separately about this, and/or add any of these topics to the agenda for next month.

- b. Hand Tools- thanks to all the people who have donated hand tools and/or money to buy tools. Sadly, some of them may already have gone missing. It was suggested that an inventory be made of the tools, so that we can verify at the end of each day that all have been returned.

ACTION: Les/Connie to determine what old tools are in such bad shape that we should “retire” them. They will be placed in a bin for a short time to allow anyone to indicate that they still want them in use, and then disposed of.

- c. Acknowledgements of gardeners: no action this month. **ACTION:** Les to write up a more formal proposal about this.

3. Treasurer's Report/Budget: Marcia

- a. Profit and Loss report is in appendix.
- b. Thanks to Monique for heading up the clothing sales, which raised about \$1400.
- c. Thanks to Mary Alinder and Bonnie for the cookbook sale, which raised about \$1500.

4. Planting Team: Jeanne

- a. Link to full planting team report at end of these minutes.
- b. Planting Team is looking for feedback on the questions in the planting team report.
Some things that came up:
 - * Considered removing crops that aren't popular and/or gardeners don't get much of, like asparagus
 - * Note that there was a water leak this year that was fixed, so hopefully we will be using less water going forward
 - * Perhaps plant a bit less lettuce, or plant it every 3 weeks instead of every 2 weeks
 - * The dry farming is a win, and we should do more of that
 - * Reduce high water/low yield crops
 - * Ask people to save water at home so more is available for the garden
 - * Determine what other crops can be dry-farmed (Jeanne is working on this)
- c. There was an error in doing a chore in bed 9 – the chore indicated that 3 inches of dirt were to be removed before adding gopher wire to the bottom, and mistakenly the wire was added before the dirt was removed.
This will need to be corrected, and everyone (chore list writers, day leaders supervising tasks, and gardeners) should work on better communication.
Planting team also solicited feedback as to how they could write chores more clearly.
ACTION: Everyone, give suggestions to the planting team on how the chore list can be more clear and easy to follow. This can be done in person, by phone, or email.

5. Winter Hoophouse Garden: Amy

- a. Amy will be heading up the winter garden in the hoophouse again this year. It will be much the same as previous years, where a group of people who sign up will be responsible for watering it 2-3 times a week.
Rain catchment will be used for watering if possible, otherwise the normal city water.
The steering committee voted to approve this activity.

6. Water Report: Les

- a. No new leak information – there are still known leaks on both the east and west sides, but they are very small.
- b. Tests have been done to prove that the pressure can be reduced to 30 psi and still water accurately.
ACTION: Jeanne to update the water sheet
- c. There is some confusion about the watering times for the herbs and flowers that needs to be cleared up.
ACTION: Paddy/Monday PM team to work with Jeanne to get the correct times on the sheet.

7. Project Team: Jim

- a. Bed 11 work needs to be finished.
- b. Other repair candidates for project team for next year:
 - * Beds 13 and 15 to be replaced
 - * Greenhouse repairs
 - * Cold frame repairs

- c. **ACTION:** everyone, pass along next year project ideas to Jim
ACTION: Jim and planting team, make a plan for next year

8. **Fundraisers:**

- a. Clothing Fundraiser – complete for this year, very successful.
- b. Honey and Herbs de Posh Sales
There are 72 jars of Posh Squash Honey, and also more jars of Herbes de Posh. It was agreed to sell the honey for \$15/jar, and the herbs for \$10/jar.
ACTION: Ursula, Paddy and Les to craft an email to all gardeners to describe how this sale will happen.
- c. Cookbook Sale – thanks especially to Paddy for helping with the sale. More than \$1500 was raised; there are still about 100 cookbooks left. Mary Alinder has indicated that she would like the money to go for structural items.
- d. Handwashing Station - \$700 was donated specifically to build a hand-washing station. Several different design drawings were submitted to the committee. Some comments were made:
 - * There is a sink donated by the Alinders previously that could be used
 - * It is possible there is redwood that could be used
 - * Having it be sanitary seems to be an important consideration
 - * Could be used to wash tools also
 - * Could there be a small tank to store water for use on the weekend when the main water is off?
 - * Many people indicated that we should use the sink we already have, rather than buying a new one
 - * Suggestion to use watering cans under the sink to collect water, that could be easily lifted, rather than a bucket
 - * Must use plant-safe soap
 - * The design team thinks this can all be done for less than \$700

9. **Harvest Picnic:** Les

- a. Date will be Sunday 17 October at One-Eyed Jacks
- b. Each day will provide a different kind of dish: it was suggested that we keep the foods to more like a picnic, fewer hot foods, perhaps salads, finger foods, desserts
- c. Setup crew and cleanup crew will be needed, also note that tables cannot be reserved
- d. Gardeners and spouses/partners only, no other visitors
- e. **ACTIONS:** Les/Glenn – discuss at next meeting (or that may be too late), or discuss/plan by email

10. **Picking Rules:** Les

- a. Les distributed his proposal for the picking rules to be given to each gardener.
- b. **ACTION:** everyone, provide feedback by email
- c. Two comments made:
 - it is important to get these rules in the hands of gardeners asap
 - Might add a rule about gardeners not picking during the work day of another day

11. Appointments: Les

- a. Roy Leon appointed as Monday PM Day Leader.

12. Action Items from Last Month: Les

- a. **ACTION:** Les to review them with committee via email

13. Comments/Questions: All

- a. Barb is making an executive decision to not mow around the cold frames for now, as it generates too much dust.

14. Next Meeting and Adjournment:

- a. The next meeting will be on Thursday October 7, 2021 at 1:30 pm, via Zoom.
- b. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tristan Colson, Secretary

Appendix 1: Profit and Loss as of 8-31-21

Posh Squash Profit and Loss as of 8-31-21
with Approved 2021 Budget

		2020 Actuals Jan - Aug	2021 Actuals Jan - Aug	Approved 2021 Budget	Variance under or (over) 2021 Budget	Notes
Ordinary Income/Expense						
	Income					
	Cookbook Sale	0	1,559	0	(1,559)	Alinder cookbook sale proceeds
	Donation/Handwashing station	0	700	0	(700)	Donations to Alinder H2O upgrade
	Herbs de Posh	0	170	0	(170)	
	Honey Sales	0	0	0	0	
	Irrigation Fundraiser	0	1,433	0	(1,433)	Net proceeds from clothing sales
	Membership	16,480	17,600	16,640	(960)	Budget based on 104, now 110
	Silent/Wine Auction			2,000	2,000	Est. net earnings
	Total Income	16,480	21,462	18,640	(2,822)	
	Expenses					
	JW Compost/Dirt	1,793	2,758	3,000	242	
	JW Cover Crop	0	0	140	140	
	JW Fertilizer	241	284	350	66	
	JW Seeds	743	816	825	9	
	RB, DP Non-seeds (Plants) (taters, garlic, etc)		128	100	(28)	
	Total Compost, cover crop, dirt, other	2,777	3,987	4,415	428	
	General Supplies	727	697	900	203	Includes \$50 donation for clippers
	LL, BH Greenhouse Supplies	1,348	965	1,300	335	
	MN Lease	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	
	JN Maintenance, Supplies, Equipment					
	Equipment, repairs & gas	198	174	700	526	Lawn mower, weed whacker
	Hand tools, wheelbarrows	152	150	300	150	Ladder, wheelbarrow, etc.
	Wood, hardware, other	2,310	244	1,800	1,556	
	Total Maintenance, Supplies, Equipment	2,661	568	2,800	2,232	
	Services					
	BG Dump Fees	30	59	100	42	
	MN Bank Fee	0	0	0	0	
	MN AED	0	0	0	0	
	MN Office Supplies & PO Box	0	0	100	100	
	Total Services	30	59	200	142	
	LG Water	4,110	3,915	6,000	2,085	241,112 gals thru 8/25/21
	LG, BS, BVS Water hardware - irrigation					
	Backflow Test	0	65	65	0	2020 testing paid in 2021
	LG, BS, BVS Water hardware - irrigation - Other	773	912	1,350	438	
	Total Water hardware - irrigation	773	977	1,415	438	
	LG, GM Misc - work parties, photos, website	0	175	175	(0)	New website costs
	Total Expenses	13,926	12,842	18,705	5,863	
	Net Ordinary Income	2,554	8,620	(65)		
	Other Expense					
	Capital Projects					
	AVS, JN Hoop House	1,224	339	350	11	South end panel
	JW Raspberry Beds	0	0	0	0	
	JW Blueberry Beds	0	0	0	0	
	Total Capital Projects	1,224	339	350	11	
	Net Other Income	1,330	8,281	\$ (415)		
	Balance on hand as of 12/31/2019	9,518				
	Balance on hand as of 12/31/2020	28,289				Included pre-paid 2021 dues
	Total Balance as of 8/31/21	19,931				
	Projected Balance as of 12/31/2021	14,068				

Appendix 2: Planting Team Report

Click the link to view the report:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jkk-Gp2Dk-QBEot_JiDozY7KUH5fZtuc/view?usp=sharing