

APPROVED MINUTES
SOUTHSIDE PLACE COMMUNITY GARDEN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2015 6:00PM

A special meeting of the Southside Place Community Garden's Board of Directors was held at the home of Amy Bryant on August 27, 2015 at 6:00 pm. All of the directors were present.

The board approved the draft minutes of May 12, 2015 previously distributed.

Patty gave a financial report, and distributed a copy of the general ledger and bank statement. She also delivered a reconciliation of the Gazebo costs versus budget. The Gazebo construction was approximately \$2,500 over budget, with much of that due to the decision to add a sidewalk from Edloe to the garden. Funds remaining are approximately \$4,000. This amount needs to be dedicated to finishing the shed, so there is no extra cash for capital improvements.

The board determined to not make any significant additional capital improvements, other than adding electricity to the shed and gazebo. The majority of this will be related to the shed and our \$4,000 budget for shed build out will be used to fund this. Otherwise, the board determined to focus future expenditures on operational costs such as compost and plants until more money is raised.

The potential for a Rohe Wright donation was discussed. Julia reported that they had declined our request at this time, but asked us to submit a new request once their construction and marketing was underway.

The October party was discussed at length. Ways to increase revenue, including by soliciting wine donations, were discussed. The board also agreed to extend a limited number of free invitations to selected supporters and potential supporters.

Bryan reported no progress with addressing a lease agreement with the city. In light of the disruption caused by the gazebo construction, it was decided to table this idea for a few months.

The board then turned to new business. Amy gave a report on decisions made by the operations committee and plans for the fall garden and needs for the habitat garden. All agreed that the operations committee seemed to be working smoothly. Similarly, the fundraising committee had been a big help in organizing matters for the October party and soliciting donations. Linda asked to be added to the October party committee.

Julia gave a report on her discussions with member Kay Browning and several suggestions and recommendations made by Kay, including furniture for the gazebo, which the board discussed. Most of the other new business items on the agenda concerning operating and capital needs had been discussed earlier in the meeting, so they were not discussed again.

Amy mentioned that she was moving out of the neighborhood and might need to resign from the board. The board discussed this, and stated that it would not be necessary for her to resign, since the Bylaws provide that one of the board members need not be a Southside resident, and in fact many of the members and volunteers were not. Having a non-resident board member was viewed as a potentially good thing, providing an important perspective now lacking. The members of the board agreed that it was appropriate to begin discussing succession planning and/or adding new members to the board. The current board has served for 3 years, and the board agreed that new perspectives were important, and that it was also important to be perceived by the community as not being insular or exclusive. Patty offered to resign but pointed out we needed to make sure at least one board member had strong accounting/financial skills. Bryan said that he was happy to resign but to remain involved with legal matters on a pro bono basis. Potential candidates to add to the board from among active volunteers were mentioned.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.