

SUSTAINABLE SOUTH OSBORNE COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

7:00 PM CST – VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

In attendance: Laura Reimer, Eliana Hotz, Barbara Ediger, Rod Kueneman, Ken Everatt, Ted McLachlan, Sean McLachlan, Alexis Bahuaud, Mathew Scammell, Jesse Oberman, Sean Altemeyer, Tracy, Jule, Winnipeg Sellors, Caitlin Popoff, Madeline, Krista Fraser-Kruck, Erik Brommell

Meeting Minutes

1. President's Address (see appendix for full details)

- Overview of past year, successes in fundraising
- Successful virtual Harvest Dinner
- SSOCC reached its food security goals of food donations
- Addressing the community townhall participation and success

2. Vice President's Address (see appendix for full details)

- Suspension of SSOCC's activities due to pandemic over the last two years
- Likelihood of continued suspension of many garden activities
- Discussion of alternative irrigation system
- Establishment of the Children's Garden at Riverview Garden Society (RGS) site
- New co-Stewards of People's Garden (PG), Sean and Mat Scammell
- Renewal of raised beds at both RGS and PG
- Erection of tool shed at Lord Robert's (LR) site with permission from city
- Monies left over from land dedication reserve fund for projects (soil, trees, bushes, pressure relief valve, etc.) to be assess and used this season

3. Treasurer Report (see appendix for full report)

- Donations matched Y-O-Y from 2020
- Total expenses were nearly \$7000 higher than 2020
- Total profit in 2021 \$11,262.84, much better place than 2020 (\$-4,605)

4. RGS Lead Steward Orchard Report (see appendix for full report)

- Tree pruning will begin in the next few weeks

5. LR Lead Steward Report (see appendix for full report)

- Tool shed will provide storage and security
- Two covers were built for raised beds

- Carrots were planted in November and should be ready for spring

6. PG Lead Steward Report

- First year as co-stewards, will explore potential for space
- Expect some significant changes to be done, i.e., quack-grass management, planting of orchard trees, perennials
- Request to manage hoop house reflection

7. River Garden Lead Steward Report

- Repaired raised bed covers, repeatedly
- Success in volunteer participation
- Children's Garden establishment a key community consultation result, Laura Reimer will be spearheading the initiative
- Ended the year with spreading woodchips, in a good place
- With a slow snow melt, we'll be in good shape
- Seedlings are doing well indoors herbs have been started and peppers are next

8. Board Member Transitions

- Barb Ediger, Krista Fraser-Kruck, and Steve Newton have stepped down
- President position vacancy: Mathew Scammell has stepped forward, uncontested, accepted
- Three member at large positions vacant: Sean Scammell and Jesse Oberman have stepped forward, uncontested, accepted
- One member-at-large position left vacant

Adjournment: 7:55 pm CST

Appendix

A. President Report:

Good evening and welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of Sustainable South Osborne Community Co-op.

Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that SSOCC has the privilege to meet and garden on Treaty 1 territory, traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, OjiCree, Dakota and Dene Peoples and the homeland of the Metis Nation.

It seems like I say this every year, but 2021 was another interesting and challenging year in the gardens and orchards. Once again, we were dealing with both the continuing health restrictions due to Covid and drought conditions. We were already at a disadvantage when we started the gardening season, as we were coming on the heels of a very dry 2020 and an unusually low snowfall. So, there was little to no moisture in the ground. We knew we were going to have to spend a lot of time and energy watering the gardens and the trees in particular. Our volunteers were up to the task and we had a reasonably successful year. We

were able to meet our commitments to Winnipeg's food insecure and made regular deliveries to Bear Clan Food Bank, Fred Tipping Place and Art City.

We received funding from both Canada Summer Jobs and the Urban Green Team to hire summer staff again. As always, we were very lucky with our hires and we want to thank Jenna, Noah, Hani and Sean for all their hard work and dedication to our efforts.

Although we were unable to hold in person workshops or fundraising events, we managed to hold two very successful fundraisers – a raffle and a virtual harvest dinner. We want to thank everyone who contributed their time, expertise and energy. I will not attempt to name everyone, because I am sure I will unwittingly forget someone. But I would like to extend a special thanks to Laura for taking on the role as head of our fundraising efforts this year. Welldone, Laura.

We also held a Community Engagement meeting in December. We asked the participants four questions:

1. What went well last year?
2. What changes and/or improvements would you like to see to our operations?
3. What needs to happen to get more members of the community involved?
4. What else needs to happen for you to see this cooperative as a success?

The feedback was generally positive and will help us in planning for the future. If anyone is interested in getting more details, we would be happy to share the notes with you.

Thanks to all the participants and to Eliana, Alexis, Krista and Laura for their efforts.

As always, I would like to thank our volunteers for coming out night after night and working so diligently to make our gardens and orchard a success. Thanks to the Board members, past and present, for their dedication to the cause. I am stepping down from my position as President and do so knowing that SSOCC is in good and capable hands.

B. VP Report:

I would like to welcome you to tonight's meeting. SSOCC will celebrate its 13th anniversary this year. We incorporated as a service cooperative on May 26, 2009.

After two years of drought conditions, our sites are now covered with a deep blanket of snow. If it melts slowly, much of it could find its way into the parched and cracked soil under it. Warm days and cold nights are what we need.

During two years of COVID disruption, SSOCC had to suspend much of its teaching function. We had to suspend the robust program of workshops, and curtail community gatherings and work bees in order to protect ourselves from a contagious virus. Although public health restrictions will be lifted tomorrow, we will not be able to resume many of these activities anytime soon because the pandemic is not over. The uncertainty about the kinds of social distancing that may well be necessary for the coming year make it impossible

to do any long-range planning for educational outreach. For now, we will continue garden clubs and work bees under whatever conditions allow. The SSOCC Board has a Strategic Planning exercise underway and it will help us decide how to proceed in our community outreach going forward

The main focus of our field operations for this season will be to:

1. make some important modifications to our orchard watering system to help simplify the task and shorten the duration of watering events. I am happy to report that the in-ground plumbing at Riverview Garden Society was installed in late November. SSOCC help pay for it out our Land Dedication Reserve Fund (LDRF) grant and we will also be using it for water distribution to the orchards, the River Garden and the raised beds garden. We will enlarge the water supply pipe in the old and north orchards to increase the volume of water available for watering trees and bushes.
2. Further develop the River Garden and install soil beds for tree planting, annual crop production, and a Children's Garden.
3. Renew the People's Garden by reducing the amount of space covered by woodchips and to increase the number of garden beds (some of them will be raised).
4. Renew the raised beds at our RGS garden plot.
5. Seek permission to rebuild the storage shed for irrigation equipment in the orchard as well as construct a tool shed at the LR Garden.

We will use up the remaining money in our LDRF grant for these purposes.

We are currently in the process of seeking an adjustment to the boundaries specified in our lease to correspond to the actual development on some of our sites. The boundaries for the People Garden and the LR Garden are accurate, but the boundaries for the Old Orchard, North Orchard and the River Garden need to be reconciled. Some of these adjustments will require Encroachment Agreements since some of the land we received permission from the Parks Superintendant to develop are actually on the right-of-way for Churchill Drive.

We are looking for volunteer participation in the various field activities that we are able to schedule. We hope you can join us for some good work, great company, and useful information. Come nurture your spirit and take a break from all the troubles that beset us. One of the best stress reduction programs available is at a SSOCC site near you!

C. Treasurer Report (see next page):

Sustainable South Osborne

Profit and Loss

January - December 2021

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC. 2021	JAN - DEC. 2020 (PY)
INCOME		
Donations	3,750.00	3,774.14
Grants		
Canada Summer Jobs	7,105.00	3,120.00
City of Winnipeg	1,619.25	
Tree Canada		3,500.00
Urban Green Team	5,843.12	1,861.00
Total Grants	14,567.37	8,481.00
Interest	10.00	
Other Revenue		
Fundraising		
Raffle Ticket Sales	5,480.00	
Total Fundraising	5,480.00	
Harvest Dinne	12,166.25	
Total Other Revenue	17,646.25	
Sales of Product Income	220.00	
Uncategorized Income		600.00
Workshop		475.00
Total Income	\$36,193.62	\$13,330.14
GROSS PROFIT	\$36,193.62	\$13,330.14
EXPENSES		
Administration Fees	619.43	30.00
Payworks fees	66.81	
Total Administration Fees	686.24	30.00
Bank charges	135.59	58.20
Communication and Promotion		295.41
Computer Costs	832.80	
Equipment rental	210.32	167.73
Harvest Dinner	2,806.64	
Insurance	1,321.40	2,963.90
Land Rental	100.00	100.00
Materials	6,005.68	6,303.78
Meals and entertainment		96.78
Operating Other	30.00	
Salaries and Benefits		
Wages	12,762.11	7,381.03
Total Salaries and Benefits	12,762.11	7,381.03
Tools		75.00
Uncategorized Expense		70.00
Workers Compensation	40.00	105.00
Workshop Expenses		305.00
Total Expenses	\$24,930.78	\$17,951.83

D. RGS Lead Steward Orchard Report:

As we approach another growing season, I will briefly touch on the joys of last year in the orchard. Even though the weather was hot and dry, we were fortunate enough to be treated to a fantastic hasp harvest early in the season. This was followed by the best plum year we have had yet! To round out the season harvest-wise we were still treated to 1500 pounds of apples, even though a large portion of our trees were under producing or conserving their energy due to the drought. This coming season we are going to be building on some of the maintenance and site overhauls we started last year. The big thing, which Rod has already touched on is the upgrade to our water distribution system. Last year saw a vast improvement in the efficiency of our volunteer crews, but with the updated system, I am hoping to cut the time spent watering by at least another third. While the snow is deep, we will begin the task of pruning in the next couple weeks, to help encourage the trees towards a healthy canopy.

E. RGS Lead Steward Report:

I will be brief. This year was both fun and challenging. We planted, weeded, watered, harvested, spread wood chips, picked potato beetles, and repaired the raised bed covers. The gardens are in excellent condition to begin the upcoming season. Again our dedicated volunteers carried out all of these tasks without complaint and contributed not just their time but their expertise and suggestions as well. While working, we talked about what we would like to see in the future. What vegetables grew well and what changes to we want to make.

One of the ideas that came out of these conversations was the possibility of establishing a Children's Garden. What better way to ensure the future of the gardens? Get the kids digging in the dirt and learning about where their food comes from. Laura was quick to volunteer to spearhead this endeavor and we are currently planning where these gardens will be located.

We are eagerly looking forward to getting back in the gardens. Ken and I have started some of our seedlings, and will be planting more in the coming weeks and months. Let's hope that all this snow melts slowly and seeps into the water table and that the gardening gods smile upon us this year.