

2023 SSOCC AGM

March 30, 2023 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Fort Rouge Leisure Centre, Winnipeg, MB

In attendance: Eliana Hotz, Sean McLachlan, Barb Ediger, Rod Kueneman, Ken Everett, Linda Wilson, Elizabeth Sellers, John Sellers, Caitlin Popoff, Kristal Heppner, Tyler, Erik Brommell, Arianna Hildebrand, Phyllis, Alexis Bahaud, Mat Scammell, Stan Zonov, Linda Olson

Regrets: Sean Scammell, Jesse Oberman, Laura Reimer

1. President's report (Mat) - See Appendix A
 - a. Land Acknowledgement
 - b. Acknowledgement and thanks to Barb Ediger, past SSOCC president's years of service
 - c. Acknowledgement and thanks to Rod Kueneman, past SSOCC vice president's years of service
 - d. Government funding supported 3 youth staff in 2022
 - e. Youth jobs application status is TBD as of today for 2023 growing season, confirmation of funding to come in April
 - f. Bike racks (to be installed this spring) and trailer have been purchased for this year
 - g. Volunteer bowling appreciation night was held in January and came in under budget
 - h. Receiving \$1850 for food preservation work shops this summer: canning, fermenting, tree grafting, growing mushrooms, etc.
 - i. 2022 Harvest Dinner was a success:
 - i. New partnership model with Ben Kramer
 - ii. Will be replicating a similar event this summer
 - j. GV Tax Prep and Accounting assisted treasurer in catching up back taxes
 - k. SSOCC divested its bank account from RBC to Assiniboine Credit Union
 - l. Strategic planning sub-committee established in late 2021
 - i. Sub-committee has applied for funding for a professional strategic planner to help SSOCC come up with a 5 year strategic plan later this summer
 - m. Community orchard has grown to the extent that the volunteer run model is no longer efficient - a move to a co-steward model where work is broken up will be utilized moving forward
 - n. Discord has been working well for volunteer coordination, provided the ability to differentiate between garden sites
 - o. *Made submission in support of Winnipeg community garden strategy March 19**
 - i. **added as amendment by Mat Scammell after AGM, comments submitted to City Council*
2. VP Report (Rod):

- a. SSOCC has begun to organize steward tasks in more formal ways for raised gardens and the food forest specifically, previous volunteer-run model is no longer functioning, causing burn out for individuals
 - b. Emphasis on tree/bush grafting this year
 - c. Emphasis on knowledge translation amongst volunteers and community members this years, “decanting the food growing capacity into the neighbourhood”
 - d. Suggestion to bring goats and/or sheep in to graze the area in lieu of weeding
 - e. Call to action for the community to take on more singular roles in the food forest
 - f. Comments from the room:
 - i. Linda Wilson notes that the Fred Tipping Tennant Resource Coordinator (last name Klassen?) wants to collaborate with SSOCC on potentially building a garden on the property, or helping the food forest with bush pruning and/or other tasks
3. Treasurer Report (Laura) - See Appendix B for full report
- a. Income highlights:
 - i. Grant: (Canada Summer Jobs/Urban Green Team): \$11,000
 - ii. Grant (Land Dedication Reserve Fund): \$18,500
 - iii. Donations: \$3200
 - iv. Harvest Dinner Event: \$15,000
 - v. Total income 2022: \$49,796**
 - b. Expense highlights:
 - i. Admin Fees (payworks, permits, website): \$800
 - ii. Harvest dinner: \$4500
 - iii. Labour:
 - iv. Land rental: \$100
 - v. Wages: \$14,400
 - vi. Contract labour: \$5,700
 - vii. Materials: \$12,976
 - viii. Total Expenses: \$40,500**
 - c. Net Profit \$9,271**
4. Steward Reports (LR, RGS, PG)
- a. LR (Ken):
 - i. Season kick-off on May 4th at 6:30 pm
 - ii. Spent soil build up is substantial
 - iii. New cargo trailer to be utilized this year
 - iv. New shed put up last year
 - v. 707 seedlings to be planted this year
 - vi. Donated 146 seed envelopes to library this year
 - vii. Library installed last year
 - viii. Compost bins to become a pumpkin drop off this year after Halloween 2023
 - b. RGS (Barb):

- i. New raised beds are being installed at the bottom of the riverside section of the garden site near the pump house; these beds may be used by external partners (restauranters) in future
- ii. Late start to the season due to a wet/cold spring that lingered into May
- iii. Small but consistent volunteer base at RGS in 2022
- iv. RGS site met the mandate to donate $\frac{1}{3}$ of grown food to front line food providers
- v. Main beneficiaries for SSOCC food donations:
 - 1. Agape Table (primary)
 - 2. Bear Clan
 - 3. Inner City Schools
 - 4. Daycares
- vi. Other donations go to:
 - 1. Chefs
 - 2. Volunteers
 - 3. Harvest Dinner
- vii. Upcoming season:
 - 1. Tues/Thurs 6:30 - Sundown
 - 2. Sat: 9:30/10:00 am start time
- viii. Comments from the room:
 - 1. Phyllis asks if there is a criteria for food donations
 - 2. Has not been established previously, mostly at Barb's discretion and ability to deliver based on need, hours of operations and proximity
- ix. Call to the community to assist with donations
- c. PG (Mat and Sean S.) - See Appendix C for full report:
 - i. 8 new raised beds built in 2022 growing season
 - ii. Daycare nearby utilized the smallest raised bed, planted tomatoes, flowers, and more
 - iii. Herb spiral was removed and perennial bushes added in that place
 - iv. Summer students helped maintain the site during the season
 - v. Higher than average water bill than previous years
 - vi. Some vandalization occurred last year, especially during the early fall
 - vii. Some issues with deer, persistent vole problem
 - viii. Biggest apple tree produced about 80 lbs of apples
 - ix. Hoop house was covered to address complaint of sun shining off hoop house into a neighbour's yard
 - x. Planted some donated berry bushes (grapes, blackberries)
 - xi. Conducted a till vs. no till potato experiment: no substantial difference found
 - xii. Arctic kiwis did very well, native to northern China
 - xiii. Donated: 25 lbs. apples to Churchill highschool lunch/breakfast program; 8 lbs. Radishes, 7 lbs. Zucchini; beets, squash and carrots to the

Riverview Community Centre fall fundraiser, 10 lbs. Potatoes, 3 dozen garlic and assorted herbs to the Harvest Dinner meal

xiv. Goals for the upcoming season:

1. Hoping to establish cover crops, build covers for raised beds, heal trees, maintenance and repairs for compost bins, water tank storage repairs, picnic tables may need lumber replaced
2. Potential to create a solar powered dehydration unit

xv. Comments from the room:

1. Ken asked what happened to the limestone from the herb spiral
2. Currently piled at the PG site

d. Orchard (Sean M.):

- i. Roughly 5000 lbs of apples
 1. About 2000-2500 lbs donated to various organizations/schools
 2. SSOCC's share went to Next Friend Cider; part of proceeds will come back to SSOCC
- ii. Berry numbers not on hand, but flourished
- iii. No watering was required for the orchard in 2022 due to copious amounts of wet weather
- iv. Minor vole damage, volunteers wrapped bottom of trees in fall 2022; anticipating less damage this year as a result
- v. Sunchoke was a bumper crop in 2022; donations made to restaurateurs and the Harvest Dinner

5. Director elections

- a. Six positions up for election
 - i. Vice President: Eliana Hotz
 - ii. Secretary: Alexis Bahaud
 - iii. Treasurer: no nominations from the floor
 - iv. Member-at-large: Rod Kueneman
 - v. Member-at-large: Ken Everett
 - vi. Member-at-large: Arianna Hildebrand
 - vii. Member-at-large: Caitlin Popoff

6. Additional Comments and Other Business:

- a. Linda Olson volunteered to deliver donated produce with a regular schedule indicated, Mat, Barb, and Eliana to meet with Linda, Jean and others interested in helping with donation coordination
- b. Kristal volunteered to offer storage space in her garage for produce, will connect with Kristal
- c. Next meeting date for new board in April to be set by Mat

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

Appendix A

Hello, good evening everyone and welcome to the 2023 AGM for Sustainable South Osborne Community Cooperative (SSOCC). Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here on Treaty 1 Territory, that our water comes from Treaty 3 Territory on lands of Shoal Lake First Nations 39 and 40, and that the electricity we are currently consuming to light this venue is generated in Territories of Treaties 1, 3, and 5 from hydro-dams on the Winnipeg, Nelson, Saskatchewan, Burntwood, and Laurie Rivers. SSOCC respects the land that we care for and acknowledges the First Nations who traditionally lived here before us – the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples. We also recognize this area as the homeland of the Métis Nation. We understand the role we must play in upholding the promises made in the treaties and other agreements, both in the spirit of reconciliation and the pursuit of decolonization.

My first year as President of SSOCC has been exciting and deeply rewarding, and I have Barb Ediger to thank for helping me be successful in this role. As many of you might know, Barb had been SSOCC President since before I ever came upon the scene and provided a solid foundation upon which I was able to build. Barb answered any questions that I had, and because she remained involved with the organization I believe it has been a relatively seamless transition. I would also like to thank Rod Kueneman for his many years of guidance as Vice President of SSOCC, without whom this organization likely never would have survived nor thrived, or even been founded in the first place. I drew, and still draw, a massive amount of inspiration from Rod and will go on record as saying his involvement was one of the key reasons I decided to stay engaged with SSOCC for so long and in so many different roles. Thank you both to Barb and Rod for their years of service as leaders in this organization, we would not be here today without you.

2022 was a good year for the orchard and gardens, and for SSOCC in general. With government funding we were able to hire 3 youth over the summer, and I would like to thank Gillian and Clare for all the hours they spent taking care of the sites, as well as a special thank you to Jenna who returned for a second year to help us not only in the gardens but also to train the new staff. We have not yet heard back about the status of our applications for staff funding this summer, but hope to receive confirmation in the coming months.

I won't spend too much time discussing the actual growing season here, since the Stewards reports will come later, but in general we had a good harvest year. Sufficient levels of moisture meant we had no need to water the orchard even once all season, and the apples produced an abundance of fruit as a result. We also had a good number of volunteers coming out to help regularly, and this contributed to our success.

There have also been some other exciting developments for SSOCC over the past year. The Board of Directors has approved purchasing bike racks for placement at the orchard, a bike trailer to assist with food and equipment transportation, and we also hosted a volunteer appreciation bowling night at Park Alleys. The bike racks will be installed in the Spring, the bike

trailer has already arrived, and we came in under budget for bowling at \$667, with our budget being set at \$1000.

We were also successful in applying for funds to facilitate food preservation and production workshops and received \$1850 from Winnipeg Regional Health Authority to do so this summer. The topics will include things like canning, jam making, mushroom growing, tree grafting, etc.. We have established an organizing committee to help with this, but anyone interested in helping out is welcome to contact us.

We had tremendous success at the 2022 Harvest Dinner, our big annual fundraiser. Debuting a new partnership model with Ben Kramer, we ended up having less organizing responsibility but still maintained a healthy profit from the event. More details will be shared in the finance report, but we are interested in attempting a replication of the past year's event.

In other financial news, our outgoing Treasurer - Laura Reimer - has been instrumental in helping SSOCC file all of our back taxes and keep our books in order. We hired GV Tax Prep and Accounting to file our taxes, help with bookkeeping, and they have also agreed to continue helping us moving forward as well. The SSOCC Board recently approved a measure to divest our funds from Royal Bank of Canada, citing their continued investment in and support of fossil fuel projects, and have since set up an account with Assiniboine Credit Union. I also participated in a card cutting ceremony at a public protest on March 21 hosted by Multifaith Climate Action, and if you'd like to see more of that you can check out our social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

I have personally been involved with our Strategic Planning subcommittee, established back in late 2021, whereby we were tasked with developing a mid-to-long term planning document that can guide this organization through at least the next 5 years. After some set-backs and other delays the committee has decided to apply for grant funds to hire a professional strategic planner, and I'm happy to report we expect to finish this project in Fall 2023. If you are interested in being involved in this process or providing any feedback, please contact either myself or anyone else on the Board. Our goal is to maximize community benefit from our organization, and so if you have ideas you'd like to share please don't hesitate to reach out.

Lastly, I regret to inform everyone that our Orchard Steward had to resign last Fall due to ongoing other commitments. This event forced the SSOCC leadership to face an inevitable truth - the community orchard we have built requires an increasing amount of effort to maintain and the model we had developed to do so was beginning to wane in effectiveness. One person, such as a lead steward, could no longer take on the task of caring for the entire orchard. Through this process we decided we would try spreading out the responsibility amongst the community, in an attempt to avoid individual burnout. I'll let Rod speak more to the details of this, but I do have positive news to report that after posting a call-out for help with some of these Food Forest Tasks, several folks have reached out to offer help and support.

Thank you everyone for coming tonight, and I look forward to hearing from all the others.

Appendix B

Sustainable South Osborne

Profit and Loss

January - December 2022

	TOTAL
INCOME	
Donations	3,244.00
Grants	
Canada Summer Jobs	7,946.00
LDR	18,597.75
Urban Green Team	4,892.58
Total Grants	31,436.33
Other Revenue	
Harvest Dinne	15,116.20
Total Other Revenue	15,116.20
Uncategorized Income	0.00
Total Income	\$49,796.53
GROSS PROFIT	\$49,796.53
EXPENSES	
Administration Fees	171.00
Payworks fees	86.13
Permits	518.50
Total Administration Fees	775.63
Bank charges	78.00
Computer Costs	61.53
Contract Labour	5,739.22
Harvest Dinner	4,565.45
Insurance	1,665.99
Land Rental	100.00
Materials	12,976.37
Repair and maintenance	58.65
Salaries and Benefits	
Wages	14,443.84
Total Salaries and Benefits	14,443.84
Workers Compensation	60.00
Total Expenses	\$40,524.68
PROFIT	\$9,271.85

Appendix C - PG Report

Recap from 2022

Discord has been working well for communicating with volunteers. We have 8 new raised beds built on the west side near soccer fields, with the RVCC daycare children utilizing the smallest raised bed. Herb spiral was removed, and perennial bushes planted in its place. A few consistent volunteers throughout the season, thanks to them and the summer students who helped maintain the site. Had a higher than average water bill, need to investigate and remedy, pay closer attention in 2023. Had some issues with neighborhood kids breaking equipment, leaving hoop house door open in cold weather. Had issues with deer munching a lot of our beans and beet leaves. Persistent vole problem, ringed multiple apple trees and berry bushes. Pruned berry bushes, still more to do before warm weather arrives. Planted asparagus and strawberry bed in an old hugel bed. Covered hoop house with shade cloth, to remedy a complaint about glare from sunlight. Planted fall crops of onions and garlic in the previous potato bed. Also planted fall crop of cabbage, carrots, beets, kale, and spinach. Planted some donated blueberry bushes, native grapes, blackberries - will see if they survive. Have already started peppers indoor, tomatoes will be started soon.

Great harvest from 2022:

- Two apricots harvested, others donated to squirrels
- Potato experiment with no till vs. till (no substantial difference in yield)
- Great haul from apple trees (~80 lbs)
- Plenty of arctic kiwis
- Donated:
 - 25 lbs of apples to Churchill HS,
 - 8 lbs of radishes and 7.5 lbs of zucchini to MB Harvest
 - Unmeasured amount of beets, squash, and carrots to RVCC Fall Feast
 - 10 lbs of potatoes, 3 dozen garlic, assorted herbs to Harvest Dinner

Plans for 2023

Establish cover crop (clovers?) to compete with quack grass, build covers for raised beds, try to heal ringed apple trees with grafting techniques, start crop rotation with potatoes, cruciferous, garlic, onions, and legumes. Maintenance and repair also needed for compost bins, water tank storage, picnic tables and wicking beds. One bigger goal is construction of a solar dehydrator.