**Minutes of Organic Gardener’s Club I naugural Meeting**

**September 10, 2021**

**Members Present:**

Ian Arnold, Winter, Joe, Jordan Evans, Jay Twardosz, Anika Cully, Grace Durden, Trent Harper, Yo Mama(?) Thomas Maple, Katie Carlson, Hannah Killan, Kathleen Harton

**Agenda:**

1. The meeting was called via Zoom by Ian Arnold at Friday, September 10 for 9:30 AM.
2. Ian gave a preliminary agenda for the meeting as people signed in.
   1. The meeting would expressly discuss leadership role details, campus garden projects, and introducing butterfly attracting plants.
3. 9:37 AM: after brief voluntary introductions from present members, Ian would go on to discuss leadership roles and answer questions pertaining to them.
   1. Any members can apply for future leadership roles
      1. The upcoming elections for leadership positions are more set-in stone in favor of having club positions filled and operating ASAP.
   2. Senator(s) are a more “concrete” leadership position because the senator(s) interact with Student Government as club representatives, and therefore will need to abide by the student government’s forms and procedures.
      1. Senator(s) will get training for their positions when elected.
   3. Other club positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer[[1]](#footnote-1)) are more freeform to meet the club’s needs. These positions are more subject to whatever the club as a body decides to do.
   4. Presently, the course for reelection in these positions are set for the end of the year, but interim elections are possible.
4. 9:45 AM: Ian moved the discussion toward current projects the club is doing and possible gardening times.
   1. Currently, there are fruit trees such as figs and blueberries to transplant and an irrigation system to set up. These projects are described as being 80%-90% finished.
   2. As for in person gardening, no concrete time has been truly set, but the members present in the meeting expressed a preference toward weekday evenings for group work. This is still an open discussion to take in the group chat up to discussion in the next Zoom meeting.
5. 9:48 AM: Grace Durden introduced the topic of transplanting butterfly plants that she owns to the garden as another future project. Members presented no objections to this motion. Transplanting butterfly plants are presumably happening after the current projects are finished.
   1. Around the same time (~9:49 AM), a group member asked in the chat portion of the Zoom meeting about spending money on the plants. This was not discussed in this meeting and is a topic for future discussion, preferably with an incumbent Treasurer present.
6. 9:51 AM: The topic of discussion moved to reiterating current activities and planning future projects for the club
   1. Transplanting fruit trees, setting the irrigation system for them, and flower gardening are all activities the club will do.
   2. Restarting the Campus Composting program is on the agenda as a more long-term initiative to participate in.
      1. Our current composting method is vermicomposting, primarily utilizing Black Soldier Fly (BSF) larvae to catalyze the decomposition process of food and animal wastes and using earthworms as a secondary processing method of those wastes.
      2. ~10:08 AM: Jordan Evans posed a question about putting meat into the compost on concerns of sustainable practices and eventually a question for the ethics committee. Ian explained that the larvae do process the meat into basic nutrients[[2]](#footnote-2) for botanical use by plants saying that vegetarians do not have to worry about eating meat products in their plants because the meat is decomposed completely. As a future question to present to the ethics committee, Jordan posed a question about using meat (which may be unsourced and possibly a product of unsustainable practices) to feed the plants and whether this is a good or bad aspect of composting.
         1. Just as an editing note, I (Will) would like to present a possible way to frame this question: Does composting an unsustainable source of nutrients present a negative incentive to keep producing unsustainably, or does composting introduce an unsustainable source of nutrients into a sustainable cycle and therefore make it a good practice?
   3. A member of the meeting brought up the possibility of a move to hydroponics in the club’s future.
      1. Anika Cully posted pictures of her at-home hydroponics system to the club group chat for reference.
      2. Will Gager reminded the meeting that aquaponics and hydroponics are two different practices, where aquaponics refers mainly to fish and creating a sustainable environment to farm them while hydroponics refer to growing plants without the use of soil.
   4. Grafting trees is something the group may want to move to in the future.
      1. Trent Harper has some grafting experience and can lend a hand in this.
   5. The meeting has talked about making possible developments in an area referred to as “The Northwoods”.
7. 9:58 AM: The club is attempting to schedule a “field trip” to some of the heavily referred to areas in the chat, such as Grow Hub and Northwoods. This would essentially be a new member orientation.
8. 10:03 AM: Hannah Killan, the current Sustainability Club president, expressed the desire to coordinate and collaborate with the Organic Gardener’s Club on compost bins and compost use.
   1. Ian, acting as a “de facto” club president in lieu of an elected official president, described having past reservations about working with other clubs, but that he is open to working with the Sustainability Club on compost bins, presumably for the Campus Composting initiative.
      1. The working idea is that the Sustainability Club would design the compost bins and be the primary builders with the Organic Gardener’s aid. There is room for discussion on how much compost goes to each club for different purposes, but that has to do with diplomatic proceedings and deliberation on part of club officials.
9. 10:11 AM: The meeting moved to a discussion on when to schedule the next meeting, which currently set for 9:30 AM on Friday, September 17 (The same time next week) to no objections by the members present.
   1. This was decided mainly due to this date being consistent with past meetings. Also, new club members who have joined recently have the opportunity to voice dissent or objections to this meeting date in the group chat if they would like to participate but have scheduling conflicts. The main takeaway is that the times and dates are flexible for zoom meetings.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

End of Minutes

1. Treasurers are described as needing somewhat more formal training than the other positions to carry out their duties [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The larvae act as a catalyst for decomposing the meat, turning it back into soil rich with carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen for plant use in the life cycle. These three elements are the building blocks of life as described in organic chemistry. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)