

**Emerson Avenue Community Garden Club**  
**2023 Annual Membership Meeting**  
**January 21, 2023**

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:27am by President Michael Calzada. The meeting was held at the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church located at 6700 West 83rd Street, Los Angeles, California 90045. • An attendance report is attached to these minutes.

**Proceedings**

- The meeting followed the agenda shown in Slide #2 of the presentation slides.
- Members were advised that a digital EACGC Notebook would be available online this year. ○ The notebook will contain a club history sheet, club bylaws, 2023 goals, a garden site map, club policies, gardening guidelines, a 2023 organizational chart and 2022 financial statements.
- Members were advised to fill out their ballots and that Mary Anne Stern will be by to pick up their ballots later in the meeting.

**Secretary's Report**

- The meeting minutes from our 2021 Annual Meeting were circulated by email yesterday. ○ Tracy Conyers moved to approve the minutes as presented; Alicia Casilli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Past President's Report**

- Outgoing President Michael Calzada reflected on his year in the Garden
  - The Garden is an inviting public space to enjoy a natural setting in an urban environment
  - Park like setting
  - Butterfly Garden tended by Carolyn Casillas
  - Native Garden tended by Beth Crosse and Karen Schaffer
  - Herb Garden tended by Lisa Penny
  - Founder's Circle: Michael and Gayle Lee are working on a venue to create a space to gather for the garden and the community at large.
  - The Garden was successful in its education's venue led by Stephanie Therriault and Milena Bice
    - Compost Class
    - Water Wise Class
    - Master Gardeners Classes
    - Tomato and Seedling Swap
- President Calzada offered a prelude to the future in the Garden
  - Art classes in the Garden
  - Garden Tours
  - Multiple activities
  - Food sharing programs
  - More classes
  - A place to gather and enjoy the wonders of nature

**Treasurer's Report**

- Records of income and expenses were in 2 funds
  - Operating Account (Citibank xxx561):

- General Fund :
  - Used for garden and club operational expenses 2022
  - Net gain of \$4,469.43
  - Current balance is \$16,895.73
  - 2022 income: \$17,464.67
  - 2022 expenses: \$12,995.24 (about a 27% increase over 2021)
- Restricted Fund :
  - Used for expenses that were restricted by grant source, the fund is closed.
  - Depleted during the build out project, a small amount was transferred to the Restricted Account ○

Restricted Account (Citibank xxx475)

- Formerly used for WAM Block Party accounting, reflects profits from that event since 2016. ■
  - Now used for Garden project expenses, as the WAM Block Party is now an independent non-profit.
  - The income sources for this account come from grants and donations.
  - Current balance is \$24,299.53, a 13% decrease from 2021.
- OUTLOOK for 2023: VERY stable and generally positive - Fundraising efforts should continue ○
  - Full accounting reports are available on request, and are on Google Drive
  - Monica Chaban, our Treasurer, was unable to join us today, but did prepare a report, which Michael Calzada highlighted

### **Committee Review**

- President Calzada read the written Committee Reports submitted by each Director at Large.

### *Governance Committee*

Incoming President Tracy Conyers gave special recognition to the 2022 Governance Committee for all their work this past year.

- Committee members were:
  - Carolyn Casillas, Chairperson
  - Michael Calzada
  - Monica Chaban
  - Tracy Conyers
  - Eric Dahlstrom
  - Gayle Lee
  - Mary Anne Stern
- There were no modifications to the Bylaws in 2022
- Motions for 2022 are online
  - Addressed club operational and administrative needs
    - Rainy Day fund equal to operational costs
    - Increased dues for 2023 to reflect rising utility and insurance cost
    - Conceptual plan for Water Wise and Herb Garden
- Reviewed responsibilities of Governance.
  - Right hand of officers
- Garden Policies and Standards Committee (GPS), a subcommittee of Governance, extended congratulations to the following Plot Holders of the Month for 2022
  - July - Marti Moran (#26)
  - August - Jennifer Hansen (#3)
  - September - Tina Vanderjagt (#6)

- October - Elmo Johnson (#16)
- November - Pru Michael (#19)
- December- Mallory Greener (#17)

### *Membership Committee*

- Special Thanks to Committee Members
  - Darlene Gaston, Chairperson
  - Lisa Penny
  - Freddi Segal-Gidan
  - Jillian Tiras
- Changes were made to onboarding new Plot Holders
- Membership Mondays
- Special recognition to volunteers and raffles
- Shift of focus to General Membership and growth
- Darlene and a team with creative talents, Alicia Casilli and Mallory Greener, produced EACGC T-shirts for sale.

### *Activities Report*

- Education
  - EACGC's Master Gardeners hosted Grow LA Classes
    - Thank you Michael Calzada, Beth Crosse, Dana Morgan, and Stephanie Therriault
  - Public Workshops
    - Mushrooms
    - Soil Composting
    - Waterwise Practices
- Events
  - National Seed Swap Day in January
    - Special thanks to Alicia Casilli, Dana Morgan, and Lisa Penny
  - Senior Center Open House
    - Thank you Kathy Saenz
  - Monthly Westchester Farmer's Market
    - Thank you Stephanie Therriault and Volunteers: Mike Calzada, Margaret Kubiak, Karen Schaffer, and Tina Vanderjagt
  - Birth of the Garden Book Club initiated by Lizzie Crampton
    - Thanks Lizzie
    - The Garden Book Club read 8 books last year
  - The Annual Tomato Tasting returned this past year.
    - Thanks to Milena Bice, Dana Morgan and Freddi Segal-Gidan
  - Under the direction of Michael Calzada and Mary Anne Stern, whose efforts coupled with EACGC's Wheelbarrow Drill Team won the CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE AWARD at the 4th of July Parade. ○ A Mezze Affair aka Small Plates was a huge success this year raising over \$6K.
    - Kudos to Mary Anne Stern and her committee: Michael Calzada, Monica Chaban, Tracy Conyers, Laura Davis, Gayle Lee, Allison Lynch, Kathy Saenz
- Hospitality
  - Madeline McCusker took over hospitality this year.

- Thank you Madeline for providing refreshments for our monthly Community Workdays.
- Alicia Casilli described ongoing fundraising initiatives:
  - Ralphs and Amazon Smile Program.
  - Amazon is cancelling their Smile Program this year.

### *Garden Manager Plots*

Thanks to Harley Halpern for work on several special projects, his quick response to Garden emergencies and his diligent work in Garden Maintenance

- Header boards were installed in each Plot
- Mailboxes were reinstalled.
  - 21 new mailboxes were constructed
- Solar lighting with the help of Jon Vanderjagt were installed in Fred.
  - Special thanks to Jon
- Replaced hose spigots, backflow preventers, hoses, and/or hose terminations
- An inventory of tools shows a need to replace hand tools
- Increased storage bins
- Returned worm bin and Alice to their previous location

### *Garden Manager Common Areas*

Kudos to Tina Vanderjagt for her leadership and maintenance of Garden Common Areas defined as overall field of the garden--everything not in a personal plot

- Coordinated planting of 30 pumpkins from seed planting to classrooms
  - Built Fall Festival Display at the fence which was used for WAM
- Hot compost was restarted in June
  - Special thanks to Bill Cox, Carl DeGrazio, and Tina Vanderjagt
- Thanks to the Vermiculture team lead by Dana Morgan and her committee: Peter Cabezas, Jennifer Hansen, and Tina Vanderjagt
- The committees did a great job on signage, sculptures, and libraries this year
  - Thanks to Eva Edwards, Karen Schaffer, and Tina Vanderjagt
  - Wood libraries were repaired and stocked with good reading materials
- Special thanks to Lea Nave who was very helpful in acquiring a donation 80 bags of Kellogg's • Beth Crosse and Karen Schaffer deserve a shout out for the great job they did reconfiguring and maintaining the Native Garden
  - added signage to individual plants
- Congratulations to Carolyn Casillas and her committee: Caitlin Donnelly, Felicia Friesema, Darlene Gaston, Elena Goodman, Fanny Lopez, William Nelson, Bobby and Lisa Penny, on a great job keeping up with ongoing replanting of the Perennial Gardens.
  - Experimenting with different species to attract pollinators and butterflies
  - Committee is also responsible for the Zen, Herb, and Succulent area of the Garden
- The Fruit Tree Committee has had a busy year saving trees and sharing fruit with Gardeners.
  - Refining watering schedules and techniques

- With the help of Dana Morgan was able to treat diseased and stressed trees
- Thank you Lea Nave and your Committee: James Bowen, Lizzie Crampton, Rachael Gates, Mallory Greener, Margaret Kubiak, Sheila Merchant, Pru Michael, Kareem Mitha, Marti Moran, Dana Morgan, Tina Vanderjagt.

### **New President's Report**

- President Tracy Conyers shared her goals for the upcoming year.
  - Finalize a long-term JUA
  - Grow our visibility in the wider community via learning opportunities and collaborative partnerships
  - Continue last year's initiative to add more non-plot holder members and grow a community of passionate supporters of urban vegetable gardens and sustainable growing practices.
  - Streamline communications and grow collaboration within our ranks
- Review of new org chart
  - President oversees the Marketing Group and the Communications Group
  - Vice President oversees the Garden Plots Group and the Garden Common Areas Group
  - Treasurer oversees the Finance Committee and the Facilities and Capital Planning Committee
  - Secretary oversees the Activities Group and Membership Group
  - The Board of Directors oversees the Governance Committee
- President Conyers asked members to hug a Governance Committee Member and reminded members that Governance is the right hand of the Board
  - Does not make rules
  - Makes recommendations to the Board
  - Provides Guidance
- Sneak Peek at CLUB EXPRESS (CE)
  - Use of CE will streamline on-boarding
  - Will provide transparency
  - Provide Garden with a new website
  - You can find CE at [eacgc.clubexpress.com](http://eacgc.clubexpress.com)
  - Expect to roll out March 1st
  - Expect Membership log-in April 1st
- President Conyers contact information is as follows
  - [tracyconyers@gmail.com](mailto:tracyconyers@gmail.com)
  - 424/272-1339
    - She prefers a call or text

### **Nominations for 2022 Directors At Large**

- This year's elections were held in person at the Annual Meeting
- A slate of 5 candidates ran.
  - The results of the elections are as follows
    - Carolyn Casillas, Membership
    - Alicia Casilli, Activities
    - Eric Dahlstrom, Governance
    - Harley Halpern, Garden Management, Plots
    - Tina Vanderjagt, Garden Management, Common Areas
- These Directors join our recently elected Officers
  - Tracy Thrower Conyers, President
  - Gayle Lee, Vice President/Secretary

- Monica Chaban, Treasurer
- Special thanks to Gayle Lee and her committee: Carolyn Casillas, Mary Anne Stern and Dorothy Stone for a job well done.

**There were no questions at the end of the presentation.**

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Gayle Lee,  
Secretary for Emerson Avenue Community Garden Club  
January 21, 2023

### **January 21, 2023 Annual Meeting Attendance Report**

Milena Bice
James Bowen
Lisa Bowen
Michael Calzada
Carolyn Casillas
Alicia Casilli
Donna Christopher
Tracy Conyers
Carolyn Coyne
Bill Cox
Lizzie Crampton
Beth Crosse
Carl DeGrazio
Eva Edwards
Andrew Ehlers

Jerry Fletcher
Harley Halpern
Gayle Lee
Franny Lopez
Allison Lynch

Marti Moran
Dana Morgan
Mark Mitchell
Pru Michael
Lea Nave
Freddi Segal-Gidan
Mary Anne Stern
Stephanie Therriault
Jon Vanderjagt
Tina Vanderjagt
Joselyn Wilkinson