

Red Wiggler Community Farm
Board Meeting Minutes
FINAL January 23, 2020

The meeting was held on Thursday, January 23 at the farm.

The following Board members were present:

- Katie Leary Sebastian, President
- Jim Heaney, Vice-President
- Louis Eby
- Chris Garosi
- Cynthia Hamilton
- Ben Laimon

- Stacy Molander participated by phone

The following staff members were in attendance:

- Woody Woodroof, Executive Director
- Ashley Jordan
- Katie Junghans
- Melissa McLearen
- Darlene Richardson
- Diane Ringel
- Sandy Yuen

Andrea Barnhart, former Red Wiggler farm manager, was also in attendance.

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order by Katie Leary Sebastian at 7:30 AM.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on December 5, 2019 were approved without amendment.

In advance of the meeting, the Governance Committee, Finance Committee, Development Committee and Executive Director's reports were circulated via email. The Executive Director also circulated a copy of a letter of intent from the Montgomery County Department of Parks that expressed its intent to renew its lease with Red Wiggler. In addition, Katie Leary Sebastian circulated committee assignments and asked that each committee chair reach out directly to the individuals on their committee to outline the expectations and plan their next meeting. She also circulated a meeting agenda that reviewed open Action Items and deferred until the March meeting discussion of items that remain open. These reports were acknowledged but not discussed at the meeting.

Staff Program Update:

The staff provided an extensive update of Red Wiggler's program activities over the past year. The update focused on the following components:

- Successes:
 - Increasing sustainability through means such as reducing use of plastic and reducing food waste by targeting foods to the recipients.
 - Implementing LEAN concepts.
 - Developing Grower public speaking skills.
- Challenges
 - Creating and achieving grower goals.
 - Training: balancing other organizational goals with training goals when they conflict.
 - Space: tight spaces for personal storage, wash area, etc.
- Changes
 - New education garden: creating a level, shaded pick your own space that is appropriate for the increased number of disabled youth that are visiting the farm.
 - Worker satisfaction survey [with positive feedback!].

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

A copy of the pdf of the slide presentation is attached.

45 min: Care Farming Presentation and Q&A. Woody Woodroof and Andrea Barnhart

Andrea presented a detailed presentation on the possibilities for developing Red Wiggler's leadership role in the Care farming movement. Social Care Farming is the therapeutic use of farming practices for health, social or educational purposes for vulnerable groups of people. While the term is widely used in Europe, it is not as common here in US. The system that has been developed at Red Wiggler could be a model or replicable at other farms or start-ups. A range of options were briefly discussed ranging from transferring Red Wiggler's lessons learned to developing a national network of similar farms, either administered by or spun off from Red Wiggler to a new organization. Concerns such as the potential impact on staff workloads were briefly discussed.

Woody stated that Red Wiggler cannot engage more growers than are currently working on the farm, and that mushrooming the Red Wiggler model was the best opportunity to benefit more folks. He thought that there are potential funders willing to support such projects without distracting from support for the current operation.

Following this discussion it was moved that the board authorize further development of a Care farming plan and budget, and commencement of

fundraising to meet this budget. The motion was seconded and adopted without objection.

There was a brief discussion of topics for the next board meeting; and it was agreed that we should discuss the renewal of Red Wiggler's lease with Montgomery County at the March board meeting. The issue of space will be discussed at the June meeting. The Governance committee will consider the topic of board size & composition.

The following ACTION ITEMS were added:

- Executive Director in collaboration with select board members (as needed) will prepare the background information needed for the Lease discussion before the March meeting.
- Governance committee will discuss and include in their next report suggestions on board size and composition.
- Consultant and Executive Director will work on Care Farming budget & proposal & Executive Director will provide a status update at the March board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned very shortly after 9:30 AM.

Minutes prepared by Louis Eby

(approved March 26,2020)