

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2008 MEETING

Notes by Stacey

Time kept by David

Meeting begins 6:05pm

Garrett starts a review of Wesley Miller controversies.

In July, Wesley's bike was stolen. Wesley held the garden leadership responsible for theft due to negligence. However, the garden is not responsible for personal items in the garden. That has to be made clear.

Shirley agrees that things can always be stolen in a public place

Bernie agrees but thinks we could look out for each other more

Wesley says gate should be shut at all times

Garrett continues review: Wesley's further response to the theft was to bring a baseball bat into garden and threaten to use it on someone.

Wesley: Not a weapon, just a bat.

Shirley: Anything could be a weapon. You said you would use it that way. Threats are dangerous.

Garrett: After bat is stolen, Wesley said garden was even more responsible. Put bad smell in garden. There've been multiple reports that Wesley said he was doing it deliberately as revenge, and wanted to ruin the harvest festival unless his bat was returned.

Wesley: My fertilizer smells bad. Saying it deliberate was just a joke.

Emily: Other people aren't taking it as a joke.

Wesley: I have trouble controlling my anger sometimes. I can say stupid things. I have no intention of ruining festival. "I want to garden more than anything"

Vanessa: It's not fair or healthy to be angry at the garden and at the world for personal things

Wesley: I'd been offended by comments people made that I was stupid to leave my bike by the door. It wasn't.

Garrett: Everyone gets offended by little things. Physical threats and grudges aren't acceptable.

Wesley: I wouldn't hurt anyone

Emily: I didn't mean to call you stupid but you'd been warned about things being stolen before, yet you were blaming everyone else

Garrett: It's inevitable that some people have personality conflicts and misunderstandings here as they learn to work together, but they let it go. Months ago I remember Vanessa and Jodie were having disagreements. But they didn't escalate things and forgave and moved on. You need to be more like that.

Stacy: This issue of the bike should have been dealt with in July.

David: Wesley needs to work on channeling his anger in more productive ways. You need to have faith that other people want you to be successful too and that you can communicate with them and work things out.

Gary: We need to work together and communicate in this project

Vanessa: You should have brought the issues you had to a meeting in July. You shouldn't have let things blow up.

Wesley: I stopped coming to meetings because not enough people were coming. I'm not angry about the bike anymore. I don't want to sabotage the festival. I will work on adjusting my attitude. I will bring my issues to meetings....It isn't fair to talk about banning me. People need warnings and then the whole garden membership should vote on it. And I don't like the way Garrett hands out the plots. It ought to always go through the steering committee.

David: If you have criticisms and ideas you should bring it to meetings. Don't let it develop into personal anger.

Wesley: Garrett isn't attentive at meetings. He isn't doing his job.

David: You haven't come to many meetings. You should try to get involved there.

Vanessa: You should come to meetings if you have strong opinions.

Wesley: I do my part. I clean, I maintain the place.

Garrett: I believe you're sorry but you do have a problem with anger that keeps coming up. No one's out to get you personally. If anyone said the things you've said - including me - it needs to be addressed.

Wesley: You're right, I'll be more careful about outbursts.

David: "This meeting could be a warning"

Wesley: "It should be a warning to all"

Gary: We're talking about behavior

Vanessa: People don't always know when you're joking. It sounded to me like you were very serious.

Bernie: Someone said something about Wesley touching them inappropriately

Wesley: No one ever brought this up to me. It's not true.

Vanessa: There was one time, and I did bring it up. I think it was just a misunderstanding.

Shirley: You need to be sensitive to people's space in this day and age.

Wesley: People should speak to me first about these complaints

Garrett motions to give Wesley a warning for violating the rule against physical threats in the garden. Seconded by David. Passes unanimously.

Meeting ended 7:11pm