

## The Allie Sunshine Project Board Meeting



**Saturday, September 6, 2025**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Katy Heath, Cody Hayes, Christine Paris, Alice Benoit, Jane Devine, Jeremy Hayes, Susan Chartrand, Terry Chartrand

**Regrets:** Nazaneen Lauriault (maternity leave)

**Intention:** Back to school for the kids...but don't forget, even though you are an adult, you are growing, learning and building to something better (Jeremy)

**Check-in Question:** How are you on a scale from 1-10? How are you on a scale from 1 - 10? What is something you are currently learning to do better? (Katy)

#### **Approve Minutes/Review Action Register:**

June [Action Register](#) reviewed by Alice.

#### **Question and Answer Period Regarding Action Register Review:**

N/A

#### **Operations Reports**

**Recruitment Team Update** - presented by Katy.

No action.

**Leadership Team Update** - presented by Jeremy.

No action.

**Marketing Team Update** - presented by Alice.

No action.

**Garden Team Update** - Cody

*South Merritt Garden report:*

The garden went well. Lots of veggies and herbs. Lots of volunteers. The City helped more with water this year. Filling totes more often than last year. Scouts came out in the spring to help clean up. We will expand and get more community youth groups involved in helping. We are meeting at the end of October to plan for spring.

*Lakeshore Garden Report:*

Our garden team welcomed Nathan and Sarah to regular participation for planning and sharing of tasks during the week and leadership of the Saturday Garden Socials.

## 2025 09 07 September Board Meeting Minutes

The Dahlia crop had a particularly rough start with over 70% loss. The plants that survived have started to produce their first blooms which were harvested today. The cut flowers have been our most successful crop in that garden bed, but without the Dahlias we do not have any large focal blooms so overall bouquet production has been low.

We have been selling veggies and flower bouquets at the road side table raising a total of \$388.85. Cody organized our first Allie Sunshine / Natural Pathways drop in at the healing garden on August 13th.

Kerrie Van Galen has spearheaded a new initiative forging an alliance with the Essex County Library to create a Seed Saving Collaboration and Seed Bank. The kickoff event will be next Saturday, September 13 at 10am-12pm.

### Future Plans:

Two Natural Rhythms workshops - aiming for weekend dates in late October and one early November. Will offer music based programming collaboration all ages welcome. Winter programming including field trips

### For 2026

Planning one day per week garden school to be offered in the healing garden. Week long summer garden camp 9am-3pm Monday to Friday for up to 15 kids.

### **Event Team Update** - presented by Sue.

Things are moving along with Tacos and Trivia. Promotions started on August 15 with a second one that went out on August 29. There is another scheduled for September 12th and then we will start the count down the last week of September. Keep sharing the event on social media (My personal goal is to have 300 people attend this year!) If you know anyone that would like to donate a prize for the raffle table, contact Terry and/or Sue.

### **Finance Team Update** - presented by Jane.

Please see the Google Drive for a breakdown of the revenue and expenses. Available funds as of August 31, 2025: \$14,746.72.

### **Buddy Bench/Scholarships** - presented by Sue.

Year End School Mass, spoke to teachers and principals. Everyone sends their thanks. Two students were very excited to receive their scholarships. We've got 1 buddy bench for Erie Migration. We purchased 1 buddy bench for Our Lady of Perpetual Help using our own personal funds until reimbursement after Tacos and Trivia night. Both schools have booked tables for Trivia.

### **Question and Answer Period Regarding the Reports** - led by Katy.

### **Breathe and Stretch Break** - led by Cody.

### **New Business**

*Filling Board Roles Before February* - led by Katy

## 2025 09 07 September Board Meeting Minutes

In May, the Leadership Team received notice that Christine Paris will be stepping down from the Board of Directors at the end of her term in February. Plans are in the works for Jeremy Hayes and Katy Heath to step down from their designated roles at the same time. We need to restructure the organization to run in a simpler way. Recruitment is necessary to help fill the skillsets that will be left vacant. Job descriptions need to be drafted for Visionary Director and Integrator to seek new candidates.

We have the support to continue the Buddy Bench Program and Tacos and Trivia Night but will no longer offer our Planting Wellness giveaway.

Cody reminds us that Natural Pathways is breathing new light into the garden. This new partnership will bring new opportunities for connection and growth.

Katy - We need to fix the communication chain within the organization to ensure all parties are aware of what needs to be done and in what time frame. Naz has shared her intention to stay on with the Board and continues to need more lead time to ensure successful marketing campaigns for events. Katy and Cody will have a discussion about the future direction of the organization and discuss Board position commitments.

Christine - Typically by the ten year anniversary for a non-profit organization, much of their continued success comes from the dedication of a paid executive director. This may be what we are lacking.

**Other Business** - led by Katy.

Are we interested in meeting in person in December for our quarterly meeting? Yes.

**Review Action Register** - led by Alice.

[September Action Register](#) -

**Next Meeting** - December 6, 2025 (Location to be determined, will contact library for availability)