



# Ranch Community Garden

## Bylaws

Modified April 2016

- 1) Ranch Community Garden will operate as a non-profit incorporated enterprise while working towards eventual 501(c)(3) status.
- 2) Ranch Community Garden will follow land lease terms signed with Beth-El Mennonite Church including the purchase of liability insurance naming Ranch Community and Beth-El Mennonite Church.
- 3) Ranch Community Garden has been created for those without garden space to have access to a garden plot. Priority will be given so that a majority of the garden beds will be offered to those living in the surrounding apartment complexes, condos, patio and town homes. Garden plots will also be available to those in the surrounding community.
- 4) Ranch Community Garden is defining itself as an “organic” garden. By not using synthetic chemicals and fertilizers the garden is in the practice of “growing the soil” through compost and other bio-intensive and bio-dynamic techniques. Composting all types of plant matter, food items etc. is encouraged and because of this, the compost used on the garden could technically not be classified as 100% organic compost. Other items that can greatly benefit the soil but could not be labeled as organic will be allowed to be used in the garden.
- 5) All suggestions for modifying rules, ban substances etc will need to be made to the Garden Board, the Garden Board will discuss put on the agenda for garden member vote if a board majority is reached. The Garden Board will maintain a list of allowed and not allowed for basic reference
- 6) Ranch Community Garden has permanently reserved 12 garden plots to raise food for a local food bank, with current food donations going to NCC (Northern Churches Care). If NCC is not able to accept or distribute the food in a timely manner than the food can be distributed to a different food bank decided on by the Garden Board.
- 7) Ranch Community Garden will have a list of reserved garden plots that will be reserved for the specific organizations through 2016. A rental agreement has been signed by Ranch Community Gardens with each respective organization. The annual garden fee will be paid for by every garden member of these reserved garden plots. After the 5 years has passed the reservations can be re-assessed by the Garden Board and garden members at the 2016 Fall Annual Meeting. The specific garden plots reserved will be held each year until May 30th, if no one has stepped forward to apply and pay the annual garden fee the plot can be assigned to another applicant. This applicant will be made aware that they may not be able to keep their plot next year if the specific organization has an applicant apply for the reserved garden plot and another plot does not open up. The applicant can chose to keep their plot should another plot open up.
- 8) Reclaiming Garden Plots will occur if the garden has not been tended and had anything planted by June 15th. The garden member will receive a phone call reminder and email response 7 days prior. If no action is taken the plot will be reassigned and deposit deducted . Reclaiming a plot can also occur if a

garden plot is not kept free of weeds and/or ripe unharvested crops are left in the garden plot. The garden member will receive a phone call reminder and email detailing the issue and also offering assistance if possible. If after 7 days the issue is not resolved the plot will be re-assigned and the deposit deducted. If the garden member wants to re-apply for a plot the next year they will have to pay the annual fee and deposit at the time the application is accepted.

- 9)** Garden members must contact the Garden Board if they are unable to find someone to take care of their plot when they are not able to tend it for more than 7 days. Emergencies and other life altering events will be taken into consideration before reclaiming a plot if prior notice is given.
- 10)** Ranch Community Garden will annually elect the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and 1 or more board members. The board will need to be diversified with 1 board member coming from Beth-El Mennonite Church, 1 board member specifically working in the food bank garden beds, 1 board member coming from the local neighborhood and at least 1 board member will pay the annual garden fee and maintain a plot in the garden. If persons are not available after a search and evaluation has been done the diversity goal is not met and board members will need to come from other areas. These board members will collectively be known as the "Garden Board".
- 11)** Each board member is expected to contribute a minimum of 20 volunteer hours, with at least 10 of those hours to include work in the garden.
- 12)** The Garden Board will be in charge of collecting all fees, paying all bills, and communicating with members on a regular basis. There will be two signatures from the Garden Board needed on all checks that are written. In the savings account will reside the garden members' deposit money. In the checking account will reside all other monies collected. From the checking account all bills will be paid.
- 13)** The Garden Board will work with and help garden members be successful to the best of their ability. The Garden Board in turn will also enforce the rules of the garden.
- 14)** The rules of the garden and annual dues will be reviewed annually and approved by the garden members present by a simple majority vote.
- 15)** All suggestions for modifying rules, ban substances etc will need to be made to the Garden Board, the Garden Board will discuss put on the agenda for garden member vote if a board majority is reached. The Garden Board will maintain a list of allowed and not allowed for basic reference
- 16)** If any member of the Garden Board during anytime of its tenure does not act in good faith regarding community garden matters, a simple majority of the garden members can convene a meeting and must invite the Garden Board. At this meeting one or more of the following actions can take place: the concern can be resolved through discussion, the Garden Board member or members can be removed from their positions with a majority vote of both the Garden Board and the majority present, or no action can be taken.
- 17)** The Garden Board can exercise the authority to remove any Garden member that has acted in an inappropriate way and is a detriment to the other garden members, or organizations well being. The Garden Board must have all board members present and a majority vote to do this.
- 18)** The Garden Board will be responsible for organizing the monthly/annual meetings and harvest party.