Name: Jim Willmann

Role for which you are a candidate: Vice-President

1. Do you have a vision for where the organization should be in 5 years, 10 years? Please describe.

For both 5 and 10 years out, my vision for Sunshine Community Gardens would be that it remain a “community” of individuals with a shared interest in gardening and continue to fulfill its purpose as a charitable, educational organization by supporting TSBVI, promoting projects such as the Micah 6 Foodbank Garden, and assisting other community gardens which have less resources.

1. What are some of the important things you would like to accomplish in your 2-year term?

Specific to the vice-president role, I would like to focus on one of the things I focused on when I previously served as vice-president and that is promoting well-maintained common paths and weed-free borders between adjacent plots. I also would like to explore possible ways to improve the process for addressing inactive gardeners before their plots become over grown and interfere with adjacent gardeners.

1. What do you consider the most important issues ahead of the garden in the coming 2-5 years, and what is your general direction regarding those issues?

Evaluating possible long-term implications of significant increase in the number of half and quarter plots at Sunshine and determining whether there is a “best” mix of full, half and quarter plots. Starting point is to gather more data relating to different sized plots such as rate of gardener turnover, service hours worked, etc. Once have such data, can evaluate what, if any, action should be taken.

Whether current system of letting gardeners pay for unworked service hours detracts from the community aspect of Sunshine. Again, first step would be to determine extent to which gardeners are paying for, rather than working, service hours and whether there has been a recent trend of an increase in the number of unworked service hours.

1. Have you served on the board of a non-profit before or have any other educational or professional experiences which would help you serve on the Sunshine Community Gardens board? If yes, which one(s) and in what role(s)?

I previously served as vice-president of Sunshine Community Gardens. Professionally, I served for 30 years as general counsel of a statewide non-profit professional association for registered nurses which included a charitable, educational foundation. The role included supporting both the association’s charitable, educational foundation and the association’s local chapters.

1. Please describe any work with overseeing volunteer groups or management of employees that may help you serve in the desired role.

See response to Question 4.

1. Are you familiar with the Bylaws of the organization? If so, do you have any concerns with the Bylaws, or potential issues with its provisions that would affect your service on the board? For the office you seek, do you agree to uphold the position as stated in the Bylaws or as amended by the Membership?

I am generally familiar with the Bylaws and do not have any issues with them which would affect my service on the board. I do agree to uphold the position of vice-president as stated in the Bylaws.

1. Please provide a brief bio, including your past experience with Sunshine Gardens, years gardened, other community garden experience not described above, etc.

I am a 76 years old retired attorney. Prior my legal career, I was an assistant professor of philosophy for four years at Austin College in Sherman Texas. I have lived in Austin since 1973 and been gardening at Sunshine since the late 1980’s or early 1990’s.

For your convenience and reference, the Vice President position description has been copied below.

The Vice-President shall act in place of the President in the event of the President's absence, inability, or refusal to act, and shall exercise and discharge such other duties as may be required by the board. The Vice-President shall serve as parliamentarian and interpret any ambiguities of the Bylaws. The Vice-President shall coordinate the work of the Zone Coordinators, which includes their training. The Vice-President shall support the process of Plot Compliance/Non-compliance as stated in the Site Rules, which may result in notifying a member of Termination of Membership.