Name: Steve Uecker

Role for which you are a candidate: President

1. Do you have a vision for where the organization should be in 5 years, 10 years? Please describe.
   1. My vision for the garden is that we
      1. Still exist in our current location.
      2. Have more plots and gardeners
      3. Have more programs and outreach
      4. Maintain and strengthen our bond with TSVBI.
2. What are some of the important things you would like to accomplish in your 2-year term?

* I would like to have us look into grants for our garden so that more outreach is possible.
* Create more plots. Build some more raised plots to improve accessibility.
* Improve our financial literacy, that is making sure we have documented how to navigate any and all IRS or other bureaucratic hurdles we may face.

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?

The city is growing, and we should be working on ways to respond to that while maintaining our location, our character and the beauty here.

Overall we should focus on our mission which is:

To beautify, conserve and provide public access to green space by providing opportunities for the public to engage in organic gardening.

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)?

Yes. I work with several health professions boards in my current position at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations. I have worked with the board here in the past and participated in the committee that worked on creating the Sunshine Gardens Initiative that secured our 501c3 status.

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

I have managed labs, regulatory departments, and field crews professionally. For fun, I have volunteered throughout my life leading projects of various sizes at the garden, YMCA kids track, Muscular Dystrophy Camps, Funky Chicken Coop Tour, and city pools.

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 you r 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?

Yes, I am familiar and No I do not have any concerns, and I agree to uphold the position of president as stated in the Bylaws or amended by Membership.

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 scientist with an artistic bent. I raise chickens and goats in the neighborhood. I have worked in the worlds of public health, research, and regulatory endeavor. That experience has made me a believer in the art of working together to build effective policy and solutions based on reality to make the world a better place.

I have been at the garden for over a decade and I love it. I started when I worked at the lab across the street. I appreciate all the people who are here and their unique approaches to gardening. It’s like art, and everyone has their style. Sunshine is a treasure that enriches the mind, body, and the community in general tremendously. Over the years, I have helped with various maintenance work and projects here including plant sales, repairs, plumbing, construction projects. I also designed and led the construction project for the raised beds.

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

*The President will supervise and control the affairs of the Initiative. The President will perform all duties incident to such office and such other duties as may be provided in these Bylaws or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors. The President shall preside at all board meetings and shall exercise parliamentary control in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The President shall serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees, unless otherwise provided by the Board of Directors or these Bylaws. The President, with the Vice President and advice of the Directors, will appoint or accept volunteers for public representation, coordinators, and committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee. The President shall, with the advice of the Board of Directors and in accordance with the requirements of these Bylaws, set the agenda for each meeting of the Board of Directors. The President will serve as liaison to the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, or any other landlords or governmental agencies.*