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This topic has 4 replies, 1 voice, and was last updated [7 months, 1 week ago](#) by  [Paul Prescott](#).

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Author	Posts
May 22, 2020 at 5:10 pm	#1315
EDIT MERGE CLOSE STICK (TO FRONT) TRASH SPAM UNAPPROVE REPLY	
<p><i>The following two emails were received regarding the Community Center proposal. Although both emails have</i></p>	



Paul

Prescott

Moderator

(104.218.52.21
4)

already been posted under the Community Center Proposal forum post, they are also posted here, along with the response from the BIB POA Board, because they both advocate the cessation of food cultivation in the community gardens.

Community Center

Susanne Jefferson <blewize42@yahoo.com> Fri, May 22, 5:39 AM

To: POA Board BIB <bibhoaboard@gmail.com>

I think option #4, not doing anything at all right now, is the best idea FOR NOW. I'd rather wait and get a center where we can fit a larger number of people before we convert the garden shed into something that will most likely never be able to hold our expanding community and any additions to that existing structure will require most likely more money (when combined with the current \$12000 proposal) than a new center or lot 28 will cost to accommodate larger crowds.

Since the removal of the fish tank was already approved, why not just take it out and be done with it? We don't need to spend money on screening and a bunch of concrete since we are so low on cash. Wear bug spray or put up some tiki torches with citronella oil. Most owners have open porches/decks anyway. The bugs aren't that bad here and the dirt floor will do just fine for now, too.

For water collection: it says in the board's reply to our emails that the cistern on the Mayan circle will be repaired 'this year'. What are we waiting for? Rainy season is about to begin. We should get it functional again NOW, not sometime this year.

What are we expanding the garden for right now and spending money on that? Individual owners can get a plot and plant and spend their own money on that. It doesn't say anywhere in the CCRs that money is to be spent on feeding the community.

All in all I don't think it's a good time right now to start a project like this until there IS a community again and since we don't have much money it would be a good idea to wait with currently unnecessary expenditures.

Cheers,

Susanne

May 22, 2020 at 5:12 pm

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Paul
Prescott

Here is the second email the Board received.

Second thoughts on Community Center at BIB

Ann McG <annmcgr@gmail.com> Fri, May 22, 6:16 AM To:
BIBHOA Board <bibhoaboard@gmail.com>

Moderator

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Cc: Susanne Jefferson <blewize42@yahoo.com>, Looey Tremblay <looey@looey.com>, Brady Irene <irene@natureworkspress.com>, Lodes Jenny <jlodes1159@icloud.com>, jdavidlove63 <jdavidlove63@gmail.com>, farrell laura <lfarrella@hotmail.com>, Rufe Jane <rufesneider@yahoo.com>, WADLINGTON LORI <loriwadlington@comcast.net>, Skiwski Sara & Ian <xerskis@me.com>, Pask Martin <Martin.Pask@subrosagroup.co.uk>, Anello Francesco <fanello55@gmail.com>, sprout33@gmail.com <sprout33@gmail.com>, Zentz Gayle <zentzgz@gmail.com>, Jayer Cecilia <cecilia.jayer@gmail.com>, Chris And Melissa <info@worldseedsupply.net>, Candee Tremblay <candee@looey.com>, Gene DeMarco <demarco.gene@yahoo.com>

Dear Board:

Thank you for posting some further information when you shared my and other owners' input on your website. I'd like to amend my preference/recommendation as a result.

I didn't realize that funds were so low and that we've had some unexpected extra expenses like attorney fees. I'd like to change my recommendation to just remove the fish tank/worm bin and use that space as-is for a gathering area for now, much as it has been in the past few years.

It is likely to be some time, at least into July, and more likely fall, which is close to next year's budget cycle, before anyone who is not already in Belize can travel there to even gather. So the space that is needed is really just for current residents who wish to hang out together. As we all know, that is a subset of total current residents.

It doesn't make sense to spend our little remaining money on screens and cement. Since there is no bathroom, kitchen or solar, most gatherings this year will be in daytime and of shorter duration. That will work for now and save money.

With regard to extra water storage for garden expansion; there isn't an immediate need for that, either. I was assured last fall by the garden committee that the water never ran out in the gardens during last year's drought, and many owners who aren't in residence, including me, have pledged their water sources for firefighting should the need arise. Now that we are moving into rainy season, that is less likely.

There also isn't a compelling reason to expand the gardens using POA fees that come from the entire community. There is no mention of gardens or food production in the CCRs, which say that the fees are to be used "for purposes of maintaining roads, and open spaces, and providing general administrative services for the maintenance and operation of the subdivision. "

We should maintain what is already there, and then could set up space for owners to adopt garden beds to grow their own

food at their expense. HOA fees shouldn't be used to feed individual lot owners, per the statement you've made:

“Individual lot owners using community property for their own private gain and at the expense of the community at large is not usually something celebrated in eco-communities.”

To sum up, take out the tank and voila – problem solved for this year!

Respectfully,
Ann McGregor

May 22, 2020 at 5:14 pm

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Paul

Prescott

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Here is the response from the BIB POA Board.

Community Gardens

BIB POA Board <bibhoaboard@gmail.com> Fri, May 22, 5:09

PM To: Susanne Jefferson <blewize42@yahoo.com>, Ann

McG <annmcgr@gmail.com>

Cc: BIB POA Board <bibhoaboard@gmail.com>, Looey

Tremblay <looey@looey.com>

Dear Susanne and Ann,

Since both of your emails are remarkably similar in their wording, we are answering them together.

When Susanne was chair of the Garden Committee and Ann was President of the BIB HOA Board, you both were proponents of food production and continued garden expansion. At all the recent Board meetings, we have been providing updates as to the new expansion, and no one has expressed any concern. The new areas for vegetable cultivation have already been prepared and the seeds already purchased. We have also recently ordered additional fruit trees. These items are being funded from the budget that Ann had developed. To abandon these projects now would be a waste of money.

The HOA fees have always been used to maintain the community gardens while Ann was President. It is quite surprising that all of a sudden, now that you are no longer a member of the BIB POA Board, that you are now saying that HOA funds should not be used to maintain the community garden. The CCR's also do not say anything about clearing and maintaining fire breaks around the community. Should we abandon them as well?

The gardens are maintained and food is produced for the benefit of ALL community members. There is a difference between an individual lot owner using community property solely for their own private gain (solar panels) while simultaneously preventing its usage for the community at large (water collection for fire fighting), and the community growing and sharing food for the benefit of the entire community. The community gardens have always been a

selling point of BIB. To abandon them now would undoubtedly affect any future lot sales.

The cistern on top of the Mayan Circle will be repaired once the vegetable seeds and new fruit trees are planted. There is still plenty of time to get it filled with water. The major benefit of having water storage at the garden share shed is that a vehicle with a trailer containing a Rotoplas can drive up next to it and quickly and easily pump water from the storage tank to the trailer. Needless to say, it would be a lot more difficult to do that if the trailer had to be backed up the hill in Ann's driveway.

We never ran out of water during last year's drought because we did not water all the fruit trees during the drought. As we are seeing with this year's crop of oranges, we will probably need to water the fruit trees through the drought in order to get a good crop yield. We also limited the watering to insure that we had enough for any potential fire fighting. Last year we also had access to the cistern in lot 66, which used to be plumbed into the garden. Having the additional water storage will allow us to water the garden through the dry season, while still maintaining enough water for fire fighting.

Thank you,
BIB POA Board



Paul
Prescott
Moderator

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Further correspondence received by the BIB POA Board:

Community Gardens

Ann McG <annmcgr@gmail.com> Fri, May 22, 5:32 PM To: BIB
POA Board <bibhoaboard@gmail.com>

Cc: Susanne Jefferson <blewize42@yahoo.com>, Looey
Tremblay <looey@looey.com>

Dear Board:

There is a difference between maintain and expand. My
email said:

“There also isn’t a compelling reason to expand the gardens
using POA fees that come from the entire community. ...
We should maintain what is already there, and then could set
up space for owners to adopt garden beds to grow their own
food at their expense.”

Also, you mentioned we’re in financial hardship this year. I
am agreeing with you and taking it one step further that it
doesn’t make sense to spend any money beyond removing
the tank.

Cheers,
Ann



Paul
Prescott

Moderator

(104.218.52.21

4)

The Board's response:

Second thoughts on Community Center at BIB
BIB POA Board <bibhoaboard@gmail.com> Sat, May 23, 8:06
AM To: Ann McG <annmcgr@gmail.com>
Cc: BIB POA Board <bibhoaboard@gmail.com>

Dear Ann,

If the POA fees could never be used to expand the garden, how would the garden ever have been created? Also, if a tree dies, would we not be allowed to replace it as that would be an “expansion”? The garden has previously been expanded with new tree purchases while you were president and while Susanne was chair of the Garden Committee.

We have never said that the community is in “financial hardship”. As we explained in the monthly meetings, based on the HOA fees collected so far, we can afford spending BZ\$12,000 on the Garden Shed expansion / increased water storage while still being able to pay for all our expected expenses this year.

The Board feels that we have sufficiently addressed this matter and will not be entertaining any further discussion.

Thank you,
The BIB POA Board

Author

Posts

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Reply To: Community Gardens

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Notify me of follow-up replies via email

Subr



Email

bibhoaboard@gmail.com



Address

10.5 Hydro Road, Benque Viejo del
Carmen, Cayo Belize CA