

## **Chinquapin Organic Gardens Board Meeting June 16, 2020**

The June 16 Board meeting was held again via Zoom. Participants included: Richard Dorrier-Chair, Anne Saul-Vice Chair, Lori Hartmann-Secretary/Treasurer, Kathryn Long, Julie Le, Ed Mensch, Brad Kukuk, Elizabeth Charles, Michele Late, Tammy Boyd. Also present: Oscar Mendoza-City Parks and Recreation Liaison.

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

There was a motion by Ed to approve the May 19 Board meeting minutes, as corrected. It was seconded by Elizabeth, and approved unanimously.

City Liaison Report: Oscar provided an update of city operations that were open, and those not yet open. The city started phase 2 last week and most programs have opened, including basketball and tennis courts, play grounds. But water fountains remain closed due to health reasons. The only program open the whole time of the shut down was the gardens, thanks to Richard and Oscar's work. There are still lots of concerns from city employees, still anxieties. The recreation centers are using thermometers and providing hand sanitizer for employees. The city workers are still on a modified work schedule but Oscar reminded the members that he is here to help with the gardens. Richard asked when we might be able to hold meetings at the Mt. Vernon Recreation center, maybe in phase 3? Oscar responded that only employees are at the rec centers now in phase 2. Anne asked if the city would consider assigning any more plots this season as there are people on the waiting list and she has received inquiries. Oscar said no, things are just getting slowly back to normal and they don't want to increase the burden on the staff. There may be a second wave of covid-19, who knows what may happen, but better to wait until next season. Oscar announced that the limit of 10 gardeners can be lifted. Richard agreed as long as social distancing is followed. The only thing not allowed will be use of the shed and the tools inside, but most gardeners have adapted to using their own. Anne said even those who used the push mowers have adjusted to not having access to them.

Monitoring: Per Anne, the first session was held June 6, with 9 persons helping. Out of 160 plots, 134 had no violations, 7 showed no activity and were given two weeks notice to clean up or if a valid reason for not being able to garden was given, they may be given more time. One gardener gave up his plot but will be placed back on the waiting list. If someone does not respond they will forfeit the plot and not be put back on the waiting list. Also, there were 5 plots cited for overgrown weeds, 7 for path maintenance and a few for miscellaneous minor violations. Overall, the gardens looked very good. The plots with violations will be checked again in two weeks.

Volunteering: Kathryn reported the stakes were painted and a few remained that needed to be lettered/numbered. Then, after the next rain, they can go into the ground.

Maintenance: Richard reported that after June 19th, the city will start picking up the yard waste stored in the temporary bins. After it is removed, he will take down the fencing and move the green bins out for use again. He also reported that he found someone (with Kathryn's help) who does small engine repair, he will come to the gardens to fix the mowers and do the fall tune-up so that Richard does not have to take them by car to a shop. A gardener emailed Anne about repairing the path by her plot. This is not usually done in the summer as it could interfere with the crops but Richard okayed it since the gardener requested this and would do it themselves if provided the materials. Richard asked Oscar if he

could get some cedar lumber from the city. Ed said we need 2x6's, 2ft T states (which may be in the shed, he will check). Also the cedar boards should be 12 ft long if possible. Richard suggested surveying all the plot paths so that we can get the lumber to fix them all at once from the city. Oscar agreed to get the lumber. Brad asked about trash pick up from the black bins. Richard said it was picked up every other week and asked Oscar if it can be done weekly. Anne said it used to be picked up twice a week. Oscar will check on it. Brad reported that the wood chips in the upper bins were almost gone. Richard will ask the tree company for more.

Finances: We have \$1141.81 in the bank. Elizabeth has an additional \$85 from the fundraiser. Oscar inquired where the money came from, Richard replied that because in-person fundraising activities were limited by the coronavirus, we asked for donations and we got a great response from the gardeners.

Fundraising: Michelle reported that she will have some designs ready soon. Cafe Press is the best option, we can order directly, set the profit margin and order extras at cost for selling at events. Richard asked her to send the designs to the board when ready and we can vote on it and then go live.

New Business: Richard announced that he and Anne discussed the picnic and they decided it needs to be cancelled, there is no way to social distance at such a large event. Anne stated that when serving food it is especially difficult. Elizabeth asked if we can still present the awards. Anne said she didn't think we needed paper certificates, but we can post the names, and Kirsten can make the selections. Michelle offered to take pictures for the website and suggested that maybe Kirsten can do short videos on why the selections were made. Julie asked if we can have new categories. Anne replied Kirsten usually adds funny ones each year. Richard suggested notifying gardeners by mid-July that the picnic is cancelled, and then give the awards in mid-August. Brad asked about fundraising instead of the picnic. Michelle offered that her sister makes baskets and could donate some for an online raffle. Julie still has a \$20 gift card for a raffle, and Brad has gloves. Anne said there is a nice pair of gloves in the shed, maybe more stuff, for a raffle. Richard suggested making a list of items for the next meeting and how would the raffle work? Michelle suggested putting it on the facebook page, she could monitor it and when done, the winning bidders can meet at the garden to exchange money for prizes.

Food Bank: Anne gave an update on the food bank project. There are three charities interested in receiving donations, but Mother of Light takes donations 6 days a week, as opposed to 1 day a week for the other two, making it better for donating greens and other perishables. For the next delivery, she will send out a notice for donations. Also, they will use Julie's plot along with the other two vacant plots to grow produce since Julie cannot get to the garden due to the quarantine.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56.

#### Upcoming agenda

July 21            Board Meeting via Zoom