

## **Chinquapin Organic Gardens Board Meeting October 20, 2020**

The October 20 Board meeting was held via Zoom. Participants included: Richard Dorrier-Chair, Anne Saul-Vice Chair, Lori Hartmann-Secretary/Treasurer, other Board Members: Kathryn Long, Julie Le, Brad Kukuk, Ed Mensh, Tammy Preston Boyd. Other gardeners attending: Tsion Bezu, Gretchen Schreiber. Absent: Board member Elizabeth Charles and Oscar Mendoza-City Parks and Recreation Liaison.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Anne made a few changes to the September 22 Board meeting minutes. There was a motion by Julie to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Kathryn, and they were approved.

City Liaison Report: Oscar had another meeting to attend but provided an email stating the water would be shut down starting the last week of October. Anne stated that usually the water was not turned off until near the end of November. Richard will see if they can wait until later to shut it off. Richard will also ask Oscar about a date to fix the retaining wall that is falling down along the sidewalk. The city provided lumber for the picnic tables and Richard fixed them. The “no parking” signs are up along the service road which will help to keep the water spigots from being hit by cars. Richard took a large food basket to the T&ES office for the yard waste/trash pickup workers and they were very appreciative.

Plot Renewals for 2021: Anne reported that the plot renewal notices were emailed but some people didn't get the email so they can contact Jean Johnson for a copy. The renewal form is due November 30, the payment is due December 15. Those who need to finish their volunteer hours should renew now and they have until the end of November to finish the hours. That way Jean can start on the wait list sooner. There are 57 people on the wait list, and 26 vacant plots so far. At the end of December/beginning of January, new plots will be assigned. Brad asked if we can ask for 1-2 plots for the food bank volunteers. Anne said no because people have been waiting all year for a plot but the same two vacant plots used this year will be the last to be assigned and if no one wants them we can use them for the Food Bank. Gretchen asked how to switch plots. Anne said this can be noted on the registration form or in the email sent with the form registration form.

Food Bank: Anne gave an update on the food bank collection, which will continue until there is nothing left growing in the gardens to contribute. The food bank distributes the produce the same day they receive it.

Volunteering: Kathryn reported that the installation of new plot markers has been completed. Ed asked if there was a list of volunteer projects. Anne will update the project list and send it out to those who need hours and post it on the kiosk. There are still 4-5 plots that need to be cleared and/or covered.

Monitoring Report: Of the 152 rented plots, 109 had no violations. This is about the same as in August. Nine plots were cited for lack of activity, up from four in August. Of the nine, two are repeat offenders, so we will recommend that the RPCA give them two weeks to clean up their

plots or forfeit them. Another 22 plots were cited for weeds – up from 14 in August, and 15 were cited for lack of path maintenance, down from 25 in August, no doubt due to the availability of good wood chips as these seem to do the best job of controlling weed growth. A few plots were cited for other minor infractions, such as fencing collapsing into the paths. The light netting and plastic netting fences seem to be the most prone to this.

Path Restoration: Ed reported there are about 20 paths on the list, they probably won't all get done this year. He needs 30 boards (2x6x12, cedar) and 3 ft metal stakes. The volunteers will work together in groups of four. Ed said it is much easier to fix a path if the garden has been cleared out already, which is why November or December is a good time to start, he will start with cleared or vacant plots.

Finances: We have \$1,066.69 in the bank. This does not include money from the Café Press sales. Recent expenses include gas, screws for the picnic tables, and gifts for T&ES workers who pick up the trash and yard waste.

New Business: The list of garden plot winners has been emailed to all gardeners. Brad provided photos of items for the raffle but Michele is really busy at work right now and has not been able to organize it. It was decided that if we run out of time for the raffle this season it will be held next season. Earth Brew is coming at the end of the month, Brad is helping with the delivery. It was mentioned that a museum program on “Military Housing in Alexandria” will cover Chinquapin Village, it will be shown via Zoom on Oct 28, cost is \$6. Also, the Taylor Run restoration project was discussed. It will begin in Winter 2021, and since the project is located in the stream corridor east of the gardens, it is not expected to affect the gardens. Public hearings have been held about the project; more information is available on the City's website.

Richard asked if all gardeners are notified of the Board meetings. Anne responded that the notice is put on the website and Facebook page by Michele.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Upcoming agenda:

October 31 – Earth Brew compost delivery  
November 17 – Board meeting via Zoom  
November 30 – plot renewal registration due  
December 5 – year end inspection  
December 15 – plot renewal payment due  
Ongoing - Café Press sale