

Chinquapin Organic Gardens Board Meeting September 22, 2020

The September 22 Board meeting was held again via Zoom. Participants included: Richard Dorrier-Chair, Anne Saul-Vice Chair, Lori Hartmann-Secretary/Treasurer, Kathryn Long, Julie Le, Brad Kukuk, Elizabeth Charles, Michele Late, Tammy Preston Boyd, Margaret and Thomas Kilfoyle, Gretchen Schreiber. Absent: Ed Mensh. Also attending: Oscar Mendoza-City Recreation and Parks Liaison.

The meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

There was a motion by Anne to approve the August 18 Board meeting minutes. It was seconded by Brad, and approved unanimously.

City Liaison Report: Oscar informed the members of the activities the city is involved in and that things seem like they are getting back to normal. Park operations are preparing for the holidays and Christmas lighting, helping restaurants with what to do when the weather gets cooler including expanding into parking lots, and the use of heaters, which involves the fire department. Also, snow removal for schools, fall leaf removal and regular maintenance projects. They have a full schedule. Anne thanked Oscar for the three new yard waste bins. She has been working with the city and the renewal notices will go out on October 9; the deadline to apply is November 30. After receiving the invoice, payment is due December 15. Anne asked about the parking signs for the service road so that people don't hit the spigots; Oscar will check on it. Richard noted the retaining wall is $\frac{3}{4}$ done, and a new section needs replacing. Oscar will put it on the retaining wall list and it will be done along with other retaining walls needed around the city as it is done by the same company.

New Board Member: Tammy Boyd expressed interest in becoming a Board member. She introduced herself saying she had a plot in the 80's, moved to the West Coast, and has been back for three years since retiring. She moved from plot K3 to Q8. She is interested in helping with the Grove, which Anne suggested she become the new manager. Richard agreed that the workload should be spread amongst the Board members and each one now has an area of responsibility. He nominated Tammy and the vote was unanimous to make her a Board member.

Food Bank: Anne gave an update on the food bank collection, which has become a weekly activity. Donations will continue until there is nothing left growing in the gardens to contribute. Richard suggested a \$50 gift card from Greenstreet Gardens in appreciation for Dona's work; Anne suggested adding her two helpers also. They will discuss.

Volunteering: Kathryn reported that they are almost finished installing the new plot marker stakes. If anyone sees any missing let her know. Anne contacted those gardeners who have no volunteer hours to help clear and cover vacant plots as there are six that still need to be cleared and covered.

Grove Maintenance: Richard will be moving the plants from the small upper garden to the Grove and will let the upper garden grass over. There may need to be some changes to the way

the Grove volunteers are managed. Tammy will now be in charge of managing the volunteers for the Grove.

Path Restoration: Richard gave Ed a list of paths that needed fixing. Oscar said the city can give us the lumber. Ed will confirm the amount of lumber and other supplies needed.

Finances: We have \$1,251 in the bank. Richard bought some Chinquapin coffee mugs and hats for the T&ES workers and will be putting together a food basket. The gifts will be given to Davis McCoy who heads the operation, so they can be shared with all workers, since it is a large group and not always the same workers emptying bins at Chinquapin each week. Richard also said he anticipates expenses this fall in order to tune up the equipment before the winter.

Awards: Agriculture Extension Agent Kirsten Conrad has made the award selections and the list will be sent to all gardeners by email. Michele has taken pictures and will put them on the website and facebook page. Kirsten has a planting area at the gardens this year. It's labeled U9, but is not actually a plot. Anne noted that the master gardeners present online workshops every Friday morning, and she will provide a link for people to sign up for the newsletter and other information, such as the seed give aways.

Bee area cleanup: Anne explained there are five hives, but only three are active. Applications for renewals were sent out. The two inactive hive may be abandoned and if so they need to be removed. There is also a lot of trash in the area. She suggested that the hives be labeled with the owner's contact information in case we or the city need to get in touch with the beekeepers.

New Business: Michelle gave an update on the Café Press sales. So far, we have sold \$513 worth of merchandise, and our profit is \$153. She also showed the baskets for the online auction. She will discuss with Brad what items he has, and how they can be grouped together to be shown online. Brad also will be coordinating the fall delivery of Earthbrew compost (October time frame). Brad asked how many vacant plots there were. Anne is not sure but since we are starting the renewal process early, we will know how many are vacant and hopefully will be able to fill them all next season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Upcoming agenda:

Late September - online auction
October 17 – monitoring session
October 20 - Board meeting via Zoom
October tbd – Earth Brew compost delivery
Ongoing - Café Press sale