

## **Chinquapin Organic Gardens Board Meeting April 20, 2021**

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

The meeting began at 7:01 p.m.

Anne and Richard made a few changes to the March 16 Board meeting minutes. There was a motion by Tammy to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Elizabeth, and the minutes were approved as amended.

City Liaison Report: Oscar reported that the budget planning is moving forward to the May adoption date. Park operations is busy with Spring events. The City Council approved collective bargaining for city workers. Materials for the pathways were delivered, let him know if more supplies are needed, we should order now. T&ES will look at the storm water drain at the bottom of the service road, Richard reported that the cover is loose. With regard to the potholes on the road, it needs to be added to the budget request, if someone can send a detailed picture so that it can be submitted for the new fiscal year which begins July 1.

### Volunteer Reports:

Paths - Ed reported that they used half of the wood and completed 6 sides. If the weather permits, he would like to continue work this Saturday. They focused on section K-M, next will be the lower gardens. Need to find gardens that don't have fences and nothing planted in the area of the work to be done. So far, they have done 15-16 sides, not working strictly from the list. Richard noted we will need more wood for the Fall. Ed requested 30 boards and 100 stakes. Oscar said to remind him later in the summer and he will place the order. Anne reminded the Board that the paths still need to be leveled, maybe a different group of volunteers can do that part. Ed commented that some paths are heavily weed infested, recommended waiting until the gardeners clear the paths, then start work on leveling them.

The Grove - Tammy reported that there are 7-9 volunteers to help weed and water the grove area. Richard did a walk through to point out plants for weeding purposes. They are labeling the plants and working on a map of the layout of the garden. Anne commented how good the labels look. Richard reported that a dog walker commented on how nice the grove looked and some picnickers by the small shade garden said it looked nice. Rose Cameron has also taken care of the peony garden. Richard pointed out that all of these gardens create positive feelings. Having beautiful flower beds surrounding the gardens is a positive community sharing feature. Anne noted that Maxine Sorenson also has a nice pollinator garden for others to enjoy behind plot P2. Tammy asked if there was a blackboard to sign up for watering. Anne said the board washes clean when it rains, suggested using a paper calendar inside a plastic cover.

Mowing – Richard has a list of mowers and several back-ups. The mowers and weed whackers have been tuned up. Gretchen asked what to do about grass growing on the paths. Anne suggested using the push mower as it fits nicely on the path. The gas mowers are too wide.

Monitoring – the first session is this coming Saturday (April 24) at 8:30. Gretchen asked if the monitoring will be affected by the Earthbrew delivery, Anne said no, they will be done by the time Eric Steiner arrives.

Plot markers – Kathryn has inventoried the plots for missing markers.

General – Ed has sprayed the shed inside and out for wasps. If anyone sees any let him know and he will spray again.

Finances: We have \$704.75 in the bank, with two pending deposits of approximately \$220.

Spring Social – Elizabeth reported a good turnout at the Zoom session. It was recorded and will be put on the website.

Fundraising: Julie informed the Board that the fundraiser at Lena's Pizza gave us \$120.94, almost the exact same amount as the fundraiser at Volas. She suggested having another one in the fall.

Picnic – Elizabeth is hopeful that we can have it this year. Anne asked Oscar if the pavilion is being reserved currently, Oscar said yes. It was suggested we reserve it just in case we have the picnic. Tentative date – August 14.

#### New Business:

Oscar asked for some nice pictures of garden activities – the community flower gardens, volunteers working on the paths – something to show the Park Commissioner.

Richard provided proposed revisions to the Garden Regulations. Items being updated include trash removal and large item storage, fences/trellises and smoking. If approved, he will work with Oscar to put them into the City Regulations for next year. Gretchen asked for clarification on the provision that climbing plants need to be removed. She has climbing berries and flowers. She suggested rewording it to read: “annual” climbing plants need to be removed. Elizabeth asked about the wording that smoking is bad for your health. Richard explained that a person continues to smoke cigars in the grove area even when asked not to. Anne suggested a city sign, but we will hold off to see if he comes back again.

Brad still has auction items. We were never able to decide on a format for an online auction, not everyone is on the Facebook page, and Michelle is extremely busy at work. He will hold them for the picnic. He also has another volunteer for mowing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Upcoming agenda:

April 24 – garden monitoring

May 18 – Board meeting via Zoom 7:00

August 14 – tentative picnic date