

Chinquapin Organic Gardens Board Meeting February 16, 2021

The February 16 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 Mensch, Elizabeth Charles, Kathryn Long. Absent Board members: Brad Kukuk, Tammy Preston Boyd. Other gardeners attending: Tsion Bezu, Tyler Stevenson, Solveig Frasch, Salma Ahamed. Absent: Oscar Mendoza-City Parks and Recreation Liaison.

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

Anne and Richard made a few changes to the January 19 Board meeting minutes. There was a motion by Anne to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Elizabeth, and the minutes were approved as amended.

City Liaison Report: Oscar had to attend another meeting but provided written comments that the city crews are working on snow removal, and also helping with the covid vaccine clinics.

Covid Restrictions – Richard informed everyone that nothing has changed as of January 25: 10 persons allowed for outdoor events, face masks required if less than 6 feet apart. He will ask Oscar to put the signs back up. The shed remains locked because we don't want to share tools because they are not cleaned off between users.

Maintenance - There are 15 working wheelbarrows (10 larger ones and 5 smaller ones). Anne noticed that some of the older ones get flat tires faster and recommended leaving them at the shed to be fixed if anyone finds one. Oscar will be getting us some leaf mulch when it becomes available from the city. Brightview will help mulch the Grove area. Tammy is in charge of this area and will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers to sign up to weed and water on a weekly schedule through the summer when it needs it the most. Anne explained the sign-up sheet will be like the one used for the food bank plots last year, a volunteer signs up for a time slot. Richard will see if Brad will coordinate the mowers again this year. Richard will work with Anne to have a few more mower volunteers sign up to cover when the regular mowers are on vacation.

Renewals: Anne reported that all plots have been rented. One didn't pay so another was selected from the waiting list. There are about 20 people on the waiting list, 10 local and 10 from outside of the city. Anne will send out two letters – one for returning gardeners and one for new gardeners which will contain more information. The website and facebook will be updated. The water is usually turned on mid-April, last year it was turned on earlier due to mild weather. We will have to see what the weather is like this Spring.

Finances: We have \$907.87 in the bank, including a recent deposit from the Café Press sales.

Fundraising: Julie gave more details about a fundraiser at Lena's Pizza. They will give us 10% of sales for dine in and carry out orders when people mention "Chinquapin Gardens." They allow for Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday events. We tentatively selected Wednesday, March 24.

New Business: Anne said that Andy Bily wants to restart the compost program that was largely on hold last year due to covid. The plot is at the lower end near the mulch bins. There are two piles, one for new stuff and one with the “cooked” product. There will be a sign up to participate. Anne also said that Kirsten has free seeds and asked if we want to set up a delivery date like last year, have people go to her, or both. Anne thought both ways would be good, Kirsten would bring the seeds to the park on a weekend, looking at a March timeframe. We discussed a virtual Spring social, maybe mid to late March. It would be a chance to meet new gardeners, maybe a weeknight or a Saturday morning? Richard thought mid-April might be good as there will be less going on. Elizabeth will take charge of planning, but thought earlier was better before the new gardeners got started. Elizabeth, Anne and Richard will discuss the timing and work on a program. Ed stated that path repairs are on hold until we have better weather, but hopefully will continue before the new gardening season begins.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Upcoming agenda:

March 16, 2021 – Board meeting via Zoom

March 24 – tentative – fundraiser at Lena’s Pizza

Early Spring – virtual Spring Social, seed giveaway