

Chinquapin Organic Gardens Board Meeting July 19, 2022

The July 19 Board meeting was held via Zoom. Participants included: Richard Dorrier-Chair, Anne Saul-Vice Chair, Lori Hartmann-Secretary/Treasurer, other board members:, Ed Mensh, Julie Le, Stacey Potosnak and Kathryn Long. Absent Board members: Brad Kukuk and Elizabeth Charles. Other gardeners attending: Margie Heins, Meghan Johnson-Watson, Jennifer Penoso, Ulysses Guerrero, Zion Bezu, Deborah Levi, Siena Loprinzi. Also not attending: Maureen Sturgill, City of Alexandria Recreation Manager/Park Operations.

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

There was a motion by Ed to approve the June 21 minutes. It was seconded by Anne, and the minutes were approved.

City Report: Maureen and Oscar were unavailable for the meeting, but Maureen asked to be notified of any issues. Richard noted that the lumber for the paths has arrived and is being stored in the city warehouse until it is needed, Ed can let her know and she will have it delivered. Ed asked if there were any stakes, about 50-75 are needed, he will provide an exact count but the number is based on how many boards we have/use. Richard will check the number of boards, but we should have the number of boards that we asked for. Kathryn asked the stakes/plot markers. She needs about 8 dozen so that we have a readily available supply for next year, then we won't have to order more. Richard was unsure about the status of the signage for the bee area, he will ask Maureen about it. Anne noted there were two vacant plots, one person recently gave his plot up, the other was taken away for lack of work. They were offered to two people on the waiting list (they had signed up in April 2021) and the plots were reassigned. [Note: there are currently 49 city residents and 22 non-residents on the waiting list. At the end of the year, all persons are contacted to see if they are still interested and if not, they are removed from the list.] Richard announced that the access road repairs had been completed.

Volunteer Reports: Richard noted that the wheelbarrows need some repairs. Of the 15 we have, 13 are working. Al Havinga has been helping him with the repairs and he may be able to make a new handle for one that needs it. Ideally, the wheelbarrows should be stored inside so that the handles don't rot, and if outside, stored on their sides so that the water doesn't collect in them. The other broken one has a flat tire. Richard reported that the oldest lawn mower needed work, but the shop that he uses went out of business. It can cost \$125 - \$150 to repair and tune up a mower. Kathryn recommended a young man who may be able to do some work on it, but in the future we will need to find someone who does this type work -- maybe we can ask the gardeners. Richard noted there was a new weed whacker, which Kathryn donated.

Richard said that the fruit tree area was doing well with Faatimah Muhammad as the coordinator. The strawberries didn't do well this year and we will not be replacing them. The watermelons and pumpkins are doing well and the perennial beds may need some volunteer help in August and September. Richard will let us know. He will need some help sorting the large trash items at the lower end as the wire needs to be separated from the other stuff so that the city can pick it up. Ed offered to help if Richard cannot find anyone else. Richard has started using some of the

backup mowers, people who need to get their volunteer hours. There should be plenty of opportunities coming up for volunteers, such as clearing and covering vacant plots in the fall and path restoration. Kathryn reported that the plot markers are up to date, but she can always use help with the sanding and painting of new markers. Stacey reported the food bank volunteers have been collecting 10 flats of produce a week.

Finances: We have \$1,036.82 in the bank.

Summer Picnic: Elizabeth will be out of town for the picnic but she will continue with the planning. Richard invited the city council members, and so far only Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins has confirmed she will attend. Elizabeth sent the board a list of food and other items that are needed. Grillers need to be there early to start the grill so the food is ready to be cooked when the others get there. Julie offered to run the tomato taste off and the raffle. Richard asked if we have anything to raffle, and do we really need it, with all the other activities going on (awards, tomato taste-off). He recommended having just the donation jar. Julie said we have lots of stuff, including seeds and bulbs, which won't last until the Spring. She suggested we could have a silent auction instead. Anne said Agriculture Extension Agent Kirsten Conrad will do the garden plot judging and have the list of winners to her by August 5-8. Richard will introduce the Board members at the picnic. Anne asked Stacey to invite the representatives from Mother of Light to the picnic.

New Business: none.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Upcoming events:

July 30 – monitoring

August 13 – picnic

(No August Board meeting)

September 20 - next Board meeting