

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

(The June meeting was cancelled)

The July 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, Tammy Preston Boyd, Ed Mensh, Kathryn Long. Absent: Elizabeth Charles, Brad Kukuk. Other gardeners attending: Margie Heins, Mary Connolly, Gretchen Schreiber, Zion Bezu, Sook Park, Ulyses Guerrero. Also absent: Oscar Mendoza-City Parks and Recreation Liaison.

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

There was a motion by Tammy to approve the May 18 meeting minutes. It was seconded by Ed, and the minutes were approved as amended.

City Liaison Report: Oscar was unable to attend but emailed Richard that there was nothing new to report.

Garden Update: Richard gave the following updates of garden activities:

- 1) The Covid signs at the shed were taken down. Tammy asked if it was premature as the case numbers are increasing again. Richard responded that he and Anne will work on rewording the signs. Julie read from the city's website that masks are not required for vaccinated people in city facilities, but are encouraged to be worn. For unvaccinated people, masks are required. Richard noted that the city is requiring in-person city meetings but the garden meetings are private so we will continue to meet via Zoom. Anne noted that more people have joined the meetings since we started using Zoom.
- 2) Leaf mulch and wood chips have been delivered.
- 3) A broken water line near plots F4-F5 along the sidewalk was repaired. A gardener broke the line while digging. Anne noted a spigot near T1 was also repaired, the knob was stuck. She reminded people to turn off the spigot, not just the hose splitter.
- 4) The dead pine tree by the shed will be removed, hopefully by mid-August. Maybe the city will be able to plant a new tree to give shade to the picnic table in that area. There are dead trees along the service road but they are on personal property. Richard has asked the city to notify the homeowners of the potentially dangerous condition due to falling limbs on the garden side of the fences.

### **Volunteer Reports:**

The Grove: Tammy reported the strawberries have blight and most will need to be removed. She consulted with Kirsten Conrad from the Extension Office and the soil will need to be tested, then replacement plants may go in. Michele state she has plants to donate, and so does Anne.

Plot Markers: Kathryn reported they are painting more stakes for next year. Richard asked if he should cut them down to size, Kathryn responded yes.

Mowing: Richard said that Eric Keber is helping with coordinating the grass cutting and everything is going well. Richard has spent an additional \$20 on gas.

Food Bank: Anne stated that Margie Heins has been taking over for Dona the last couple of weeks. The food bank volunteers have taken over three plots offered by gardeners who are unable to garden this season because of injury, job challenges, etc. Margie said some gardeners have said if someone waters their plots while they are away, the produce can be given to the food bank and this exchange is working well.

Monitoring: The second monitoring session was held on June 5. Of the 176 plots, 144 had no violations. Of the 32 with violations, five were cited for lack of activity, three of which were for the second time. The city gave those three gardeners two-week's notice to take care of their plots or they will be forfeited. One gave up her plot and the other two began working on them, so were not forfeited. Of the two plots cited for lack of activity (first offense), one was taken over by the food bank group because the gardener was injured, and the other gardener gave up his plot. A few plots were cited for weed and path issues. The next monitoring session is July 31. There are three vacant plots, which the city will attempt to reassign to those on the waitlist (of which there are 50 people.) This is higher than normal because last year the city stopped assigning plots during the pandemic.

Finances: We have \$1,035.69 in the bank. This includes all fundraising monies to date.

Picnic – Elizabeth Charles is organizing the picnic and she has sent around a list of items needed. Richard reported that he had invited the mayor, vice mayor, and city council. Most are busy but one councilman said he may be able to attend. Anne advised that attendees should bring serving utensils. Michelle asked if it was safe to share serving spoons. Anne responded that a person could use their own individual spoon instead of the large one provided. Anne said we still need volunteers to grill the hot dogs, bring ice, and set up at 11. Richard said that the program would be as follows: welcome, introductions, food bank mention, garden awards handed out by Kirsten Conrad (with city council if present) and pictures taken by Michele. (Kirsten will judge the plots, Lori will print the certificates.) Tasters for the tomato competition will be selected at the picnic. Finally, announce the raffle winners. Ed suggested a brief presentation about the volunteer program, especially for new gardeners. Anne noted there are still many who have not submitted any volunteer hours. Richard encouraged all to look at Elizabeth's spreadsheet and sign up for picnic duties and supplies. Any questions should be directed to Elizabeth.

Michele suggested inviting Marlin Lord and Kathryn Brown. Anne said she invited Kirsten's co-workers from the extension office who will be helping with the judging. Margie suggested inviting some of the staff members at Mother of Light to attend.

New Business:

Zion asked about the dog policy at Chinquapin as she has seen dogs off leash. Anne stated that dogs should be on a leash and the policy is noted on numerous signs around the park. Some suggestions for dealing with loose dogs included calling the non-emergency police number, calling animal control and telling the owners to leash their dogs. Richard will mention the problem to Oscar.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Upcoming agenda:

July 31 - monitoring

August 14: 12–2 p.m. picnic. Set up at 11 a.m.

September 21 – next Board meeting (no meeting in August)