

Chinquapin Organic Gardens Board Meeting March 15, 2022

The March 15 Board meeting was held via Zoom. Participants included: Richard Dorrier-Chair, Anne Saul-Vice Chair, Lori Hartmann-Secretary/Treasurer, other board members Julie Le, Elizabeth Charles, Ed Mensh, Brad Kukuk, Stacey Potosnak. Absent Board members: Kathryn Long. Other gardeners attending: Jennifer Penoso, Dona Lee, Zion Bezu, Deborah Levi, Ulyses Guerrero, Sharon Vannucci, Dee Emory, Gretchen Schreiber, Margie Heins, Mimi Murphy, Raven Holm, Tyler Perez, Salma Ahamed. Absent: Oscar Mendoza, City Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities liaison, Also attending: Maureen Sturgill, Recreation Manager/Park Operations.

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

There was a motion by Ed to approve the January 18 minutes. It was seconded by Elizabeth, and the minutes were approved.

City Report: Maureen welcomed everyone to the 2022 gardening season. She provided an update of city activities at the gardens. There has been a new proposal submitted for repairing the asphalt service road. A purchase order will be submitted; then the work will proceed. Three more gardeners from the wait list were given plots due to three people cancelling. Two have paid and the other is pending. The red kiosk on the north-south sidewalk has been repaired. Ed asked if he could get more wood to repair more paths before the gardeners get started planting; Maureen will check again on this.

Garden Report: Richard gave an update of activities since the last Board meeting in January. There are wood chips in both bins and leaf mulch in the lower bin. Leaf mulch for the upper bin should be delivered Thursday. He asked that tomato cages not be placed in the trash bins, the trash is burned and the metal is not good to have in there. Anne will let the new gardeners know they can take the extra cages by the shed.

Anne gave an update on Eathbrew compost. Eric will make two deliveries in the Spring -- April and May. The first delivery is scheduled for April 2. One cubic yard load is five wheelbarrows full. If you want him to deliver it to your plot, the cost is \$75. If you want to haul it yourself, the cost is \$60. It is hard for him to get the wheelbarrows in between all of the fences.

Anne and Richard are working on the volunteer list and monitoring schedules. According to the regulations, by the first inspection, plots must be cleaned up and show signs of activity. Lori said a gardener asked her about this, the water won't be on until early April and it would be hard to have any seedlings planted by the first inspection. Anne explained the inspection process for the new gardeners, and suggested moving the first inspection to April 30. Richard said he will see if the water can be turned on at the end of March, it is all dependent on the weather. Anne reminded everyone of the late freezes last April. Richard will be checking the lawn mowers to see if they are still running.

Food Bank: Stacey gave an update, noting that Earthbrew compost and tools had been donated to the two dedicated food bank plots (C3, G3). She is working on a welcoming email to send out to old and new gardeners explaining how the food bank donations work.

Finances: We have \$777.37 in the bank.

Fundraising: Julie gave an update on the fundraiser at Lena's. Turnout was lower this year, but Lena's matched last years' amount, \$121. At the Spring Social, we will have a raffle and a jar for direct donations.

New Gardener Seminar: Elizabeth informed everyone that there will be a one hour zoom seminar for new gardeners on March 22, which she is organizing, along with Anne and Richard. Richard read through the agenda, which will include time for Q and A's at the end. It will be recorded and put on the website. It was very successful last year.

Spring Social: This is scheduled for April 23 at the pavilion next to the gardens. City council members have a scheduled Council Meeting that day so none are expected to attend. Julie and Brad will organize the raffle. Food will be potluck, and Elizabeth will coordinate on whatever is needed from the Board.

New Business: Richard discussed Covid protocols. He asked if we need to be doing anything differently. Julie responded that the city infection rate is low, masks only for those who are at high risk. Elizabeth said we should still wipe off tools after use. Richard said we will follow the city requirements and can take down the signs on the shed. Dona explained that the master gardener program will no longer have free seeds to give away this year. They were not able to get many from the suppliers, so they are discontinuing the program, at least for this year. Zion asked if we could get a portable bathroom for the gardens. Maureen said probably not, but she will look into it. Anne said the ones seen sometimes in the park were connected to groups who rented the pavilion. Also, the city had two in the park during Covid when the Chinquapin recreation center was closed, for the youth sport leagues to use. Elizabeth said that gardeners can use the restrooms at the rec center but Zion said the center closes at 7:00 p.m. (This was checked after the meeting, and the hours at the Rec Center are 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Mon-Fri and 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Sat & Sun.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Upcoming events:

March 22 – Zoom seminar for new gardeners

April 23 – Spring Social, 12-2 p.m. at the pavilion

May 17 – Board meeting

August 13 – picnic