

## **Chinquapin Organic Gardens Board Meeting May 18, 2021**

The May 18 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, Brad Kukuk, Kathryn Long. Absent: Elizabeth Charles, Ed Mensh. Other gardeners attending: Margie Lomax, Mary Connolly, Gretchen Schreiber, Tsion Bezu, Salma Ahamed, Clare Colton. Also present: Oscar Mendoza-City Parks and Recreation Liaison.

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

Anne made a few changes to the April 20 Board meeting minutes. There was a motion by Tammy to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Anne, and the minutes were approved as amended.

City Liaison Report: Oscar reported that the city is still debating internally about where and when masks should be worn. They may reach a decision this week after they meet about it. The Governor gave very specific situations where masks should be worn and when they may be removed, but it does not cover all situation such as the number of employees in a vehicle. The city crews are busy with an irrigation project at Mount Vernon elementary school that is beginning tomorrow and with the King Street hanging baskets. Richard noted that he spoke with Angela Lynch of TDS and obtained two additional trash bins. They will need to be stenciled as “trash” containers. Oscar will look into getting the stencils put on. Anne noted that two “no parking” signs were down again, Oscar will see if they can be put up more securely so that they cannot be knocked down so easily. Oscar thanked the gardeners for all the hard work to make the city a better place. He said some people do not realize that we have the gardens and he would like to promote them. The community garden program was the only city Parks and Recreation program that continued during the pandemic and it was a big benefit for people’s health (mentally and physically) -- to allow people to be outside and doing something. Everyone agreed that we were fortunate that the city allowed us to continue with the program. Anne said that promoting the community gardens would allow others in the community to enjoy them. Oscar said he will look into updating the city’s website and recommended the board connect with the marketing department and connect with the elected officials at least once a year, especially this election year. We should promote the gardens through various channels. Richard noted that last year there was an increase in park usage. Oscar gets emails every week from people around the country asking if we have community gardens. He said people want to know before they move into the area. Anne suggested adding “community gardens” to the Chinquapin Recreation Center sign on King Street. Julie asked about the surveys done by the Parks and Recreation Department – where are the results? Oscar said the surveys are done every two years, he will look for the results, maybe we want a speaker to discuss the results with us?

### Volunteer Reports:

Monitoring: The first monitoring session was April 24. All 176 plots are rented. Of that number, 142 had no violations, 34 were cited for some reason. Of the 34 cited, 13 showed no activity, 7 were cited for weeds, 14 for paths. One plot was given up and it has already been reassigned. The next monitoring session is in early June. Richard suggested that if someone has a

neighboring plot and the gardener is struggling to maintain it, we should offer to help them. Anne noted she knows some gardeners have health concerns and/or lingering Covid related illnesses.

The Grove - Tammy reported that there are 14 volunteers to help at the Grove. The strawberries are starting to ripen, and a big thank you to Brad (mostly) and Anne for donating them.

Plot markers – Kathryn reported that the painting is ongoing and about two dozen are left to be done.

Food Bank: Anne reported that a two gardeners are unable to work their plots this season and have offered to let the Food Bank plant them. The food bank volunteers have scheduled a “pop up” donation delivery for Saturday May 22 using donations from our gardeners. Richard asked that the Board approve a payment of \$120 to Earth Brew for two cubic yards of compost for the FB plots. Last year, Eric Steiner donated the compost, but he thought Eric should be paid this year. The Board agreed and a check will be sent to Anne who will pay Eric via PayPal.

Finances: We have \$825.69 in the bank. Richard will be submitting a request for reimbursement of lawn mower gasoline, and Anne \$120 reimbursement for the FB Earthbrew.

Picnic – Elizabeth has reserved the pavilion for August 14. We will discuss the picnic at next month’s Board meeting, including updated covid restrictions. Anne will contact Kirsten Conrad about judging the gardens again this year.

#### New Business:

Gretchen noted that the hose splitters were not being turned off. Can the rules be re-sent? Mary Ryan noted that the hoses near her were left tangled and not rolled up and that last year it was not a problem. Kathryn agreed that it has become a problem this year. Richard suggested coiling the hoses and hopefully others will follow suite. Anne will send a reminder to the gardeners that water is a commodity that should not be wasted. Richard noted that he and Anne are willing to fix leaky hose connections, as there are replacement washers in the shed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m..

#### Upcoming agenda:

June 5 – garden monitoring

June 15 – Board meeting via Zoom at 7:00 – Discussion of the picnic

August 14 – tentative picnic date