

## **Chinquapin Organic Gardens Board Meeting November 16, 2021**

The November 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, and Kathryn Long. Absent: Board members: Elizabeth Charles, Ed Mensh and Brad Kukuk. Other gardeners attending: Jennifer Penoso, Mimi Murphy, Gretchen Schreiber, Zion Bezu, Sookja Park, Stacey Potosnak, Deborah Levi. Also attending: Oscar Mendoza - City Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities liaison and Maureen Sturgill, Recreation Manager/Park Operations.

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

There was a motion by Anne to approve the October 19 minutes. It was seconded by Kathryn, and the minutes were approved.

City Liaison Report: Oscar reported that he met with the urban planner about fixing the service road. The city is finalizing the contract for repairs now and he will check on when these repairs can be made, hopefully before the winter. Richard asked Oscar for three things for the grove area: 1) a new tree to go where the dead pine tree was removed, by the shed (preferably a deciduous tree); 2) two replacement fruit trees for the two that died; and 3) strawberry plants (we may add pumpkins and watermelons in some of the beds where the strawberries died). Oscar asked why the plants died, do we need to do something different in the future? Anne agreed that water issues may have contributed to the trees dying; also the deer are a problem. The strawberries developed a disease. Oscar said the city can provide gator bags or have Brightview water new trees. Maureen will coordinate with Richard on these items. Oscar reported that the water would be turned off on Thursday, November 18. Richard asked about the garden regs, and whether we had approval for two plots to be given to the food bank volunteers. Oscar will draft a formal amendment, and ask Jim Spangler if the legal office needs to see it. Maureen reported that the renewals are ongoing, and she is sending out invoices now. Anne reminded everyone that the deadline for renewal signup is Nov. 30 and for payment is December 15.

Board Update: Richard reminded the members that Tammy had stepped down from the Board and at the last meeting it was recommended that the food bank volunteers nominate a member to serve on the board. Stacey Potosnak (F5) was nominated by her group and we will waive the 3 board meeting attendance requirement since we asked for a member. The vote was unanimous to make Stacey a Board member.

### Volunteer Reports:

Paths: Ed and Richard identified two paths in the lower area that need to be leveled -- S1 and U4. Both are vacant, and it is easier to fix the paths when there is no gardening activity, so they will be done first. After that, they will need more supplies to do more paths.

Plot Markers: Kathryn reported they have enough supplies for next season. They found some short markers that need to be replaced because they become hidden by plants.

Volunteer activities: Anne reported that all of the vacant plots have been covered. There are 19 vacant plots, and two will be used for the food bank. As more gardeners give up their plots at the end of the season, their plots can be covered, if needed. There are approximately 64 people on the wait list.

The Grove: Richard asked several people to take responsibility for managing the maintenance now that Tammy has left, but all declined. He suggested splitting the duties into three areas: 1) strawberries; 2) orchard; and 3) perennial beds. Faatimah Muhammad (Q6) offered to manage the orchard as she has helped in the past and participated in the pruning event last year. Richard will oversee the perennial beds. That leaves coordinating of the strawberry beds vacant.

Food Bank: Stacey reported that November 6 was the last collection. Work has begun on the two new plots – part of G3 has been covered with woodchips to add nitrogen to the soil and C3 has been cleared and two cover crops have been planted. Sharon Vannucci (L6) donated a raised bed for use in the plot.

Finances: We have \$846.80 in the bank. A gift basket for T&ES is being assembled and will be presented to Angela for distribution the first week in December.

Fundraising: Julie discussed having another fundraiser at Lena's in December or January. It was decided that a January date might be better. January 26 was tentatively set for the event. Details will be announced at the January 18 Board meeting.

New Business: Richard has asked T&ES to pick up some large metal items by the lower mulch bins and that should be done this week. He asked if the Board would approve 1-2 cubic yards of Earthbrew for the strawberries and the Board agreed. Earthbrew will be delivering this week to any gardeners interested in purchasing it (Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>). Anne recommended that any extra compost be put around the fruit trees.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Upcoming events:

December 4 – final garden monitoring session

No December Board meeting

January 18, 2022 – Board meeting

January 26, 2022 – tentative fundraiser (Lena's)