

DCGO BOD Meeting, January 9, 2024

Cyndi called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM.

Attending: John Kriek, Richard Osterholtz, Kame Awokoya, Jeff Leech, Eleanor Geddes, Dave Siegler, Cyndi McGill, Ann Bone and Anna Schoenbaechler

Secretary Ann presented corrected December minutes which were unanimously approved.

Vice-Chairperson Dave reported that the Pantry Beds and Harvest Team donated 2,285.4 lbs of produce to Malachi's Storehouse in 2023, along with an additional 326.9 lbs of pumpkins. He stated that 2024 is off to a good start.

Membership Director Eleanor reported that:

9 members have resigned -

We have 9 open plots which will be cleaned out on the MLK Day of Service 1/15 and then offered to those on the WaitList. The Wait List is currently 10 people.

11 current members have neither renewed nor resigned. Eleanor has reached out to them by text and email repeatedly.

We have 6 Affiliate Members.

Treasurer John reported that our EOY balance was approximately \$21,000, \$20K of which is earning interest. John stated that we ended 2023 with an approximate \$3,000 surplus over expectation. John has received 2024 budgets from the Greenhouse Chair and Social Chair. He is awaiting budgets from other chairpersons.

Greenhouse Chair Richard reported that seeds and 50 sweet potato slips have been ordered. The sweet potato slips are in conjunction with Janet Hanser and the Experimental Garden. Some herbs have already been seeded, other crops will begin to be seeded next week. Richard reported that Art Simon has many flowers germinating in the greenhouse for the Plant Sale. Cyndi stated that she is ordering about 6 additional types of flower seeds for Art to germinate. Richard has ordered the needed parts for the Greenhouse irrigation project, set for 1/20 all day. So far he has one volunteer response from the newsletter. The PVC will be laid out first, followed by the low-voltage electrical work. Dave Siegler and Jeff Leech volunteered to help.

Garde Chair Jeff suggested replacing the rotted and falling split rail fence separating the pollinator beds and the main garden with the same type of picket fence recently installed at the greenhouse. It was agreed that the picket fence may form a better barrier keeping the creeping pollinator plants out of the abutting pantry beds. It was decided that this project is too big to pull together for the MLK Day of Service but will instead be a Garden Team workday sometime after MLK Day but by early spring. Richard stated that the greenhouse fence cost between \$300 and \$400 for about 40' of fence. He estimates the garden fence to be about triple in length.

Socal - Cyndi reported for Ann W. that all is arranged for refreshments to be at the garden for the MLK workday.

Community Outreach Chair Kame reported that the January MG Talk and the MLK Day of Service notices are out there in the public realm. Due to the surplus of volunteers for MLK Day, she will withhold another notice for that day. Kame asked if we would be repeating the Crier ad for the 2024 Plant Sale and all agreed that we should. She has already composed the ad. Plant Sale and all Spring activities have been coordinated with the City.

Everyone congratulated Rachel Waldron on her appointment as Interim P&R Director.

New Business:

Cyndi asked for suggestions for a farewell gathering for Mika Oda, our star greenhouse volunteer. A tree-planting party in her honor to present her a framed photo of herself with Art and a cake was decided upon. Richard will shop for a dwarf Japanese maple to be planted near the pergola at the greenhouse complex. Cyndi suggested Wednesday, Feb 7 for the gathering and all approved.

Cyndi asked Dave to elaborate on his Garden of the Month suggestion. Dave stated that the Brookhaven garden has 3 "managers" who select the "nicest looking" plot each month. Eleanor, Ann B. and Dave volunteered to be on the selection committee. It was decided that BOD members' beds are NOT ELIGIBLE. The monthly winner will have a sign and whirligig placed in their bed and be featured in a DCGO newsletter with photo.

Cyndi asked about a credit card reader for the Plant Sale as our current setup has literally died. Eleanor suggested that we use VENMO and ZELLE. John reported that over 90% of membership renewals were by PayPal. Cyndi, Eleanor and John will coordinate on actual card reading devices to be considered.

Secretary Ann B. will include one last appeal for renewals in the upcoming newsletter and remind members of the MLK Day of Service activities.

Cyndi reviewed assignments for the MLK activities:

- Jeff will assemble materials and tools, including lawnmowers for leaf shredding

- Jeff will place picnic tables

- Ann W. will provide and set up coffee, water and snacks

- All DCGO Leaders will meet at the garde at 8:15 am

- Volunteer sign-in will begin at 8:30 - 2 tables, one for members, one for volunteers

- Cyndi will welcome all at 9:10, explain work teams

- Plot repair/ Rebuild - 6 volunteers, Team Leader is Richard, these 5 beds will be marked with 2 orange flags.

Plot clean-out - 12 volunteers, Team Leaders Ann B and Dave, these 14+ plots will be single flagged. Bed 411 will be completely emptied and refilled. Tools already in shed, Jeff to supply black cover fabric, Ann to bring scissors and fabric staples.

Leaf Raking/Shredding and Mulching - 16 volunteers, Team Leader Anna will coordinate. Jeff to supply tarps and rakes

Weedwacking - 4 volunteers, Team Leader Jeff will supply weed eaters, fuel, rakes.

Tomato cage organization -

Cyndi reported that we already have 51 volunteers signed up. Anna will communicate with two additional large groups to decline their offers and reroute them to the City for work at other sites.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bone
Secretary
DCGO