

DCGO BOD Meeting, May 7, 2024

Cyndi McGill called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Attending were Eleanor Geddes, Cyndi McGill, Dave Siegler, Richard Osterholtz, Ann Bone and Kame Awokoya.

The April minutes were submitted and approved as written.

Eleanor asked Dave to update the DCGO website to reflect the increased dues to \$80.

Cyndi presented the earnings from the Spring Plant Sale at \$13,350 net of start-up cash. We do not track exact cost vs sale data but all agreed that the sale produced a large profit. There was no need for any expenditures at Growers' Outlet due to the quality and quantity of the plants supplied by the Greenhouse and from donations.

Cyndi requested suggestions and feedback:

- 1) Richard suggested that the tomatoes and peppers could be seeded later next year to avoid any legginess.
- 2) Richard asked that the cashiers not pull plant tags. It was verified that they did not do so, but that plant tags have been returned from the garden and members plant in their plots.
- 3) Huge kudos to Taylor for solving and simplifying the label printing process!
- 4) Eleanor suggested adding "Native" to the appropriate plant tags.
- 5) Eleanor loved the analytics available with the new Clover system.
- 6) There was discussion about ending the sale at 3 PM on Saturday and delaying the start time on Sunday until 11 AM.
- 7) Cyndi and Eleanor can sell plants without the card reader device at MG talks using the Clover app. Richard could potentially sell plants anytime if he downloads the CloverGO app.
- 8) Since our transaction fee is so low with Wells Fargo through the Clover device, perhaps we can adapt our membership renewal process? Possible complication, though, is the fact that the Membership Agreement must also be signed and submitted.
- 9) Ann suggested having more small bags of Veggie Mix for sale. Dave stated that Soil3 will deliver small bags of less than a full order along with cubic yard bags of compost mix.
- 10) Ann relayed customer comments that our herbs were priced too high for the size. Richard suggested seeding the herbs much earlier next year.
- 11) Ann and Eleanor related customer questions about the colors of blooming plants, exact plant species, etc. We will continue to ask plant donors to give as detailed info as possible.

Vice-Chairperson - Dave reported that Faye Roane is back in action as Harvest Team leader. The YTD harvest is 366 lbs, which is 9 lbs ahead of 2023 at this time. Richard has offered 25 sweet potato slips for the Pantry Beds. Ann suggested planting them in PBs 1 and 4, which are currently empty. They should be planted by mid-May.

Membership - Eleanor reported 3 new members:

Daphne Tiem #616
Reiko Desouza #613
Susan McLaughlin 505

Resigned
Scott Whitt #616
Bhavna Barot #613

Open Plots - 0

Waitlist - 4

Outstanding renewals - 0 Wooooooo Hooooooo!

Affiliate members - 8

“Naughty” notices sent - 12

Treasurer - Cyndi reported for John that our cash on hand is currently \$33,513, with a forecast surplus of \$5,226. Half of the surplus is from the Plant Sale, half from donations in memory of Mitch McGill. Cyndi asked if anyone knew a donor named Karen Laine, who donated \$150 with no info addressed. She will inquire with Deb Felto and Judith Mills if this may be a friend of theirs. Cyndi confirmed that all donors receive a tax-deduction letter from DCGO.

Greenhouse - Richard reported that he is “resetting” the GH complex to its pre-plant sale configuration and that he will be planting sweet potatoes this next week. All summer crops have been planted.

Garden - Cyndi reported for Jeff that she will follow up with Ace Hardware’s new handyman service to ask if rebuilding our fallen split-rail fence might be a project for them.

Ann and Richard reported that all the “main” water hoses have issues: within the garden, the red hose is missing its nozzle, the other hose set-up leaks badly. Within the orchard, the apple-side hose is leaking so badly it levitates itself off the ground and the pear-side hose stand is broken, not allowing the hose to be rolled up. Cyndi asked if we should consider using steel hoses which don’t kink or tangle and are very lightweight. She also asked if we should use hose looping racks rather than reels. Dave suggested a “Water Workday” for the Garden team to correct these and other water issues at individual beds. Dave will work with Jeff and Anna on setting up a workday; Dave agreed to take the lead on the workday project. Ann will publicize this workday in the upcoming newsletter and ask members to report any specific issues they are having with their plot irrigation hookups in advance so that we can have the proper supplies on hand. Ann will also solicit any members with “working with PVC” skills. Dave will store plumbing parts in the green shed.

Social - Cyndi asked for feedback on the Wine and Cheese. Ann suggested that we have more cheese and fewer sandwiches next time.

Community Outreach - Kame reported that the twin ads in the Dunwoody and Sandy Springs Criers did produce customers for the sale. D-News, however, seems to have been the best publicity. Kame will look into the Dunwoody Quarterly publication re: upcoming events.

New Business:

Nicki O'Neil, one of our great volunteers, would like to host a women's group event at the GH complex sometime in June for 15-20 women. We will provide a tour and soil and plants for their "potting up" activity if they bring their own pots. Nicki will clean the Barn and be responsible for the group's wine permit deposit with the City.

Former (and founding) member Rod Pittman's business partner, Dr. Bouchard, is offering to donate a memorial to Rod in the \$1500 range. Ideas floated were a really nice bench, replacing the rotting pergola at the GH, repairing the shelters at the back of the garden or placing a new gazebo with a metal roof and solar-powered fan between the shelters in the garden to provide a covered shelter for garden members. Such structures are available at Costco. Cyndi also suggested that she has a friend who may design a replacement arbor for the GH complex in memory of Mitch McGill.

The cobb bench and cover in the garden is falling apart. The entire back of one bench has crumbled. Cyndi has emailed the sister of our deceased former member to ask for guidance. The crumbling bench supports the roof structure.

Newsletter - Ann announced that bed 103 has been chosen as May "Garden of the Month". She has emailed the plot-holder, Lisa Nemetz, asking questions about her bed. Other items to include would be the rebuilding of the ADA beds, new grow lighting in the large GH, plea to members to take care of hoses and nozzles, garden member photos.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bone
Recording Secretary, DCGO

NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE JUNE 4, 2024 AT 6:30 PM

