

DCGO BOD Minutes, March 11, 2024

Attending: Cyndi McGill, Richard Osterholtz, John Kriek, Dave Siegler, Ann Bone, Jeff Leech, Anna Schoenbaechler

Cyndi called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. No changes were suggested to the February minutes, which were adopted as written.

Vice-Chair Dave reported that the Pantry Bed team is stable and that the YTD harvest is 65.6 lbs. He visited the 6 beds at St. Patricks, which need TLC. Dave also created and circulated suggested guidelines for PB tenders. Richard suggested allowing companion planting and succession planting to augment the “one crop per bed” guideline. He also suggested that “beans” be clarified as “pole beans” for crops prohibited to be planted in beds 12-19, abutting the Demonstration Garden.

Membership - reported by Cyndi for Eleanor. We have 3 new members: Susan Lesense in 610, Kenny Lee in 306 and Kim Clarke in 100. We have had zero resignations since last month and now have one open plot with zero names on the Waitlist. Two members have not yet been renewed, Bhayno Barot and Adrienne Icenhower who has a financial need situation. Eleanor has given two tours to a total of 6 members since last month.

Treasurer - John reported that we currently have in excess of \$21K in deposits and that he has obtained a cashier “reader” which can be used with its app for the plant sale. He will instruct us on its usage at the April BOD meeting. Cyndi suggested that we acquire a second reader to facilitate “shift changes” at the sale.

Greenhouse - Richard stated that all veggies but the cucumbers and squash have been planted in the greenhouse. He sent out an email to the Greenhouse volunteers asking for more help in the greenhouse but only had one response.

Garden - Jeff reported that Dunwoody Pine Straw will recommence mowing the garden and orchard in mid-March. Their rate has increased to \$550 per month which included 4 mowings. Jeff also reported that the workbench in the garden had rotted out and had been removed. It was suggested that a recycling bin be placed in the garden for pots to be brought to the greenhouse. Jeff cited 6-8 messy plots which he will inform Eleanor of for “scolding” letters. Discussion was had about replacing the falling down split rail fence with a picket fence similar to the fence behind the butterfly garden at the greenhouse. Cyndi suggested that the gap between pickets be a little narrower. Jeff has not yet communicated with the Garden volunteers. Cyndi requested that an email be sent before the next BOD meeting by Jeff/Anna giving volunteers information about planned projects such as the fence, summer watering of the pollinator beds and the orchard, etc.

Social - Cyndi reported that Betty Alspaugh has offered to step in for Ann Wright to coordinate volunteers for the 4/26 Wine and Cheese Social. Ann will pre-order all the food.

Community Outreach - Cyndi stated that Kame is investigating an error on the Plant Sale dates seen in the Dunwoody Reporter. The Reporter did not receive the info from us, but may have received it from the City of Dunwoody. Dave is updating the DCGO web page to reflect the correct dates.

New Business:

DCGO received a \$1500 grant from FoodWell Alliance. Richard proposed to use \$300 of that money to rebuild 2 of the ADA beds at the greenhouse as a workday project, hopefully the weekend of April 6. He also requested \$1000 for full-spectrum grow lights on timers to be installed in the large greenhouse. He will remove the shelving currently hanging over the grow beds. This will be described as a project to overcome the fading natural light in the greenhouse due to the polycarbonate skin becoming more opaque with age. We will also realize a savings by being able to turn the fluorescent lights out at night. Richard anticipates needing 4 volunteers for about 4 hours to rebuild the ADA beds.

The Dunwoody Nature Center has requested that April Witt, MGEV, be added to the MG Talk series in early '25 to present "Moon Gardening".

DCGO member Nicki McNeal has asked to bring about 20 members from her garden group on a tour of the garden, ending with a planting workshop at the greenhouses sometime in June.

Richard is hosting a Girl Scout troop 5/5 for a tour and planting workshop.

SNAP! Dragon's Garden opening will be 3/23 from 10-2. Featured will be the "ZZTops" sunflower peek-a-boo, Kathy Walton's sculptures, games and entertainment coordinated by the City P&R and "Dino-woody" inflatable dinosaurs lent by Lisa Torres. We will need 2 or 3 volunteers to represent DCGO. Cyndi will purchase pansies and snapdragons for the colored cans at the gate. A member of the DFAA has asked to display her art at the garden; Cyndi will refer her to the City for a decision. Several BOD members expressed concern that this may lead the event to become another arts and crafts event, which we don't want to host in the garden.

Plant Sale - Cyndi is setting up the volunteer needs schedule. Kame has placed our ad on the cover of the Crier immediately preceding the sale.

Jane McLean's MG Talk workshop on propagation was very well received.

Dave asked for all to feed him events and info to post on the DCGO website.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Bone, Recording Secretary