

MINUTES – Annual Meeting (DRAFT)
September 20 2020
DUNWOODY COMMUNITY GARDEN and ORCHARD

MEETING DATE: September 20, 2020 (electronic zoom meeting due to COVID-19)

Meeting was opened at 4:05 pm est by Ann Bone, Chairperson

Welcome, everyone to our first, and hopefully last ZOOM Annual Meeting! I truly miss socializing with you, sharing garden stories and just having some fun. Our meeting today is thanks to members Deb Felto and Judith Mills, producers extraordinaire!

After thanking Deb and Judith, Ann requested Judith to explain how the zoom meeting would be held and how the voting would be conducted. Judith demonstrated how members could access the reaction buttons to respond to comments, how to activate the chat feature to ask questions and how the proposed By-law changes would be presented, voted, and polled. She then turned the meeting over to Ann.

We're here to celebrate what we've accomplished since September, 2019, to vote on several Bylaw changes and to elect our next BOD.

It's been a year like no other! First, in the Garden itself,

- I say this every year, but it continues to astonish me that the Garden becomes more beautiful each year! Many thanks to JEFF LEECH for all his hard work. This year Jeff hired Dunwoody Pinestraw to mow and edge the garden area and orchard. The work has been excellent. This year, 18 deteriorated member beds have been rebuilt, in addition to 5 charity beds.
- We have a brand new “forever” deer fence. Over 700’ of powder coated chain link magnificence! Thanks to the City of Dunwoody for partnering with us on this major improvement by splitting the \$16,000 cost with us!
- The Charity beds were so lush and productive thanks to the Charity Bed volunteers. These dedicated members volunteer to plant, weed, water and do whatever is needed to produce crops for donation to Malachi's Storehouse in the 23 beds lining the perimeter of the Garden and another 20+ beds at the Greenhouses. HUGE THANK YOU'S TO: ELEANOR GEDDES, ART SIMON, SHEILA WILDER, DEB FELTOE, JUDITH MILLS, MARCIA DUNN, TIELKE BAKER, JANICE FETT, GALINA VORONKOVA, JEFF LEECH AND COLEEN LAWRENCE
- The pollinator beds have truly come into their own, literally flooding the garden with color and pollinator activity. Many thanks to the Master Gardeners, particularly CYNDI MCGILL and BETTY ALSPAUGH, for this gift!
- Additional circular borders have been installed around fruit trees in the Orchard, thanks to RICHARD OSTERHOLZ and the Master Gardeners.

Second, our Greenhouse complex continues to flourish, thanks to ART SIMON. He germinated and donated hundreds of plants to area community gardens AND secured big hunks of business from Captain Planet and Atlanta Foodwell Alliance.

The Greenhouse complex has had a major upgrade with the complete rebuilding of the Butterfly Garden. The Butterfly Garden is loaded with native plants to feed and shelter Lepidoptera - moths and butterflies. Many people helped clear the weeds, design the garden, plant the beautiful plants and keep it weeded. Special thanks to CYNDI MCGILL and BETTY ALSPAUGH for their hard work and design expertise.

Next, DCGO has really increased its community profile and involvement by:

- Ramping up our donations to Malachi's Storehouse during this time of increased need. COVID-19 has created a massive increase in demand for fresh produce at the food bank and DCGO has really stepped up! Our Charity Bed gardeners are wonderful; so are our Harvesters: JUDITH MILLS, DEB FELTOE, SHEILA WILDER, JANICE FETT, MEGAN HARTER, JULIANNE SAMAYOA and our fearless Harvest Team Leader, ELEANOR GEDDES.
- Eleanor isn't able to be with us today, but she has asked Judith Mills to share some information with you about our harvests. Judith?

Judith presented a PowerPoint presentation comparing our current year's donations in pounds with previous years. By far, have donated more this year than any other year.

Thank you very much, Judith! Thank you so much Eleanor and all the Charity bed tenders and harvesters. Since our last Annual Meeting, we have donated over 2000 lbs of fresh organic produce to our neighbors in need.

Additionally, we have really upped our Community presence by:

- Developing a totally new website! WE WERE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR DOMAIN NAME OF DCGO.ORG. The new site is full of announcements, events, classes and volunteer activities for our Members and the public. This was a huge undertaking, requiring several months of dedicated effort from the BOD, especially CYNDI MCGILL, who spearheaded the entire project. It's fabulous!
- Activating our Instagram account and utilizing our Facebook presence on a regular basis. Thanks to ELEANOR GEDDES for her dedication to telling the world about our piece of heaven!
- We hosted the first annual Pollinator Event in partnership with Bee Dunwoody. Even with COVID-19 restrictions in place, families enjoyed the games in the garden and took the Pollinator Pledge to make their own gardens pollinator-friendly.
- Hosting a Georgia Arbor Day tree sale, which was a disappointment. Selling trees in

Dunwoody was not my best decision.

- Unfortunately, several of our planned community activities had to be cancelled or severely curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions:
 - Our planned rain barrel workshop set for March has been indefinitely postponed. Our Storytime in the Garden events for April and August were cancelled,
 - Our Master Gardener Talks have been sporadic,
 - Volunteer workdays with outside corporate, school and social groups have been suspended,
 - Our social get-togethers, the spring Wine and Cheese party, and our Annual Meeting cookout have been cancelled,
 - And the biggie, our Spring Plant Sale, was cancelled, morphing into a “walk-in, social distance honor system” plant sale which amazingly brought in over \$6,000! This included an over \$1,000 sale to Captain Planet for use in school gardens. We owe a huge thanks to ART SIMON for this success.

This increasing public profile, along with the pandemic, have made DCGO the place to be! Perhaps you saw the recent front page article in the Crier about DCGO.

Because of our community presence and also due to COVID, DCGO has been full up all year and our current waiting list is 34 prospective members. Many thanks to MIKE HAYWARD for juggling inconsistencies within our Bylaws while continuing to communicate with existing members and eager potential members.

In light of this, I want to transition to the business portion of our meeting.

The BOD has developed and approved four proposed Bylaw changes to open up a new type of membership and to make the transition from “abandoned” plot to “new member” plot more transparent and timely.

These proposed changes were published in the Newsletter sent to all members on August 21.

- Article III: Membership and Garden Plot Allotment, Plot Holders, 3rd paragraph, second sentence shall be changed from, “Each member must be in good standing before Jan.31” to “Each member must be in good standing before Dec. 31.” And, in conjunction with this,

Article III: Membership and Garden Plot Allotment, Plot Holders, 8th paragraph, second sentence shall be changed from, “Deadline for payment of renewal will be February 15” to “Deadline for payment of renewal will be December 31.”

These changes will cure an inconsistency within the Bylaws and also make non-renewed beds available to potential members on our sizable waitlist much earlier.

Question from the floor, “what makes a member in “good standing.”. Answer, paying dues by the designated time. With no further questions, Ann made a motion that these changes be approved by the membership. Motion was seconded by Bill Grossman and Art Simon. At this time, all members were given the opportunity to vote electronically to the proposed motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Article III, Membership and Garden Plot Allotment, add a new section called, “Affiliate Membership” which will read, “A person may elect to join DCGO as a non-plot holding member by paying annual dues as determined by the BOD and signing an Affiliate Membership Agreement. Affiliate Membership privileges shall be determined by the BOD. Plot Holders may elect to become Affiliate Members by releasing their assigned plot back to DCGO at any time during their membership.”

We have had several requests from members to create this class of membership for those who wish to financially contribute to DCGO, enjoy the activities and classes, volunteer but not actually be responsible for a plot.

There were no questions from the members. Ann made a motion that DCGO create an Affiliate Membership type of membership. The motion was seconded by Sheila Wilder. Everyone was given the opportunity to vote electronically. The motion passed unanimously.

- Article IV: Board of Directors, Powers and Duties, 7th paragraph, change language from “Four Board members may be issued credit cards to facilitate board approved and budgeted purchases. Credit cards are approved for the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Main Garden Manager and the Greenhouse Manager” to “Selected Board members may be issued credit cards to facilitate board approved and budgeted purchases.”

Reality has been that other BOD members need access to DCGO funds from time to time for approved social and improvement projects.

There were no questions. Ann made a motion that this language change be approved. Motion was seconded by Bill Grossman and Art Simon. Everyone was asked to vote electronically. The motion passed unanimously.

- Article IV: Board of Directors, Election, 1st paragraph, 1st sentence. Proposed change is to change, “Election of Directors takes place annually in August at a general meeting....” to, “Election of Directors takes place annually at a general meeting...”

Our Annual Meetings have taken place in September for the last two years to allow for cooler weather and the convenience of members. There appears to be no need to specify a certain month for that meeting. Ann made a motion that “in August” be dropped from this sentence in the Bylaws. This motion was seconded by Joan Sichterman. Everyone was given the opportunity to vote electronically. The motion passed unanimously.

Thanks for your participation in the governance of DCGO!

Now to our final piece of business, the election of a proposed slate of candidates to serve as the DCGO BOD from 9/20/20 through the date of the 2021 Annual Meeting. Please give a thumbs up or a wave to our current BOD members who have served DCGO well: STASIA KELLEY, Community Outreach, has stepped up our Public Relations to the way next level! She has moved out of our area and reluctantly relinquished her garden plot.

SHEILA WILDER and CYNDI MCGILL, as co-Social Directors. They planned some wonderful parties, believe me! Too bad we couldn't actually host them.

ART SIMON as the Energizer Bunny, aka the Greenhouse Manager. Art is a rock, and we are grateful for all he does.

JEFF LEECH as our indomitable Garden Manager. That beauty you see everytime you enter the Garden is his doing.

TERESA HENNESSEE as our Recording Secretary. Somehow she can take notes while four people are talking and get it straight. She is the best proofreader I have encountered; she truly dots our i's and crosses our t's.

BILL GROSSMAN as our Treasurer. Somehow the money's always there for our projects.

MIKE HAYWARD as our Membership Director. It's a complicated job but he makes it look easy.

TIELKE BAKER as Vice-chairperson. Tielke anticipates what will be needed and usually takes care of it without even being asked. He is a great volunteer and always sees the good side of situations. Tielke, you're a treasure!

And it has been my sincere pleasure to serve as your chairperson for the past two years. You are a wonderful group of people to be with. But I need to step back a little and turn over the leadership of DCGO to a new chairperson with fresh energy and new ideas.

Please take "turn over" with a grain of salt. Once again, we have not had any at-large garden members step up to join the BOD. Trust me, it can be a lot of fun and very rewarding!

However!!! That doesn't mean we're not taking a step forward. The proposed slate of candidates for the DCGO BOD for 2020-21 is:

Chairperson - Tielke Baker
Vice-chairperson - Cyndi McGill
Treasurer - Bill Grossman
Secretary - Teresa Hennessee
Membership - Mike Hayward
Garden Manager - Jeff Leech
Greenhouse Manager - Art Simon
Social Director - Sheila Wilder
Community Outreach - Ann Bone

Ann made a motion that the proposed slate of candidates be elected by voice (or ZOOM) vote. Motion seconded by Joan Sichterman. Everyone voted electronically and the motion passed unanimously.

Congratulations, Tielke and all the dedicated BOD members. I hereby pass you the golden cultivator of office. Use it wisely! I now turn the meeting over to Tielke Baker.

Tielke thanked Deb Melto and Judith Mills for putting the zoom call together. He also extended many thanks to Ann Bone for all her work and wished her continued success on her journey. He thanked the garden members for participating in today's event. He followed up with a short video highlighting people and events in the garden over the past year.

After the video presentation, with no further business and extended thank you's all around the meeting was concluded at 5:04 pm est.

Respectfully submitted

Teresa Hennessee recording secretary