

DCGO BOD meeting, August 16, 2022

Attendees: Cyndi McGill, Eleanor Geddes, Richard Osterholz, Jeff Leech, Bill Grossman, Sheila Wilder, Kame Awokoya, Ann Bone and John Kriek

Cyndi McGill called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Cyndi introduced John Kriek, DCGO member and prospective BOD member.

The minutes from the July meeting were reviewed by email by BOD members prior to the meeting and corrections submitted. Sheila made a motion that the amended July minutes be accepted, seconded by Richard. Unanimously approved.

Vice-Chair - Ann reported that Daniel and Monique Bradbury have relinquished care of Pantry beds 2 & 3 due to moving out of the area and that Serena Satcher has relinquished care of Pantry beds 14 & 15 due to work responsibilities. April Whitt (FOG) responded to Ann's plea for tenders in the latest newsletter and will take over PB 14 & 15. Ann has planted PB 2 & 3 until a new tender is recruited. YTD harvest from the Pantry beds stands at 1,186 lbs.

Ann will include articles on the proposed Coffee in the Garden, the Fall plant sale, proposed bylaw changes and the upcoming Annual Meeting in the next newsletter.

Membership - Eleanor reported that we have 2 new members, Magda Richard (bed 612) and Jessica Griggs (bed 300). One plot was surrendered, bed 300 (Daniel and Monique Bradbury). The waitlist currently has 6 entries, 2 of which are Dunwoody Residents. New member tours were conducted for Mary Ellen Miller (EG and CM) and Magda Richard (CM). Eleanor reported that her most recent walk-through of the garden revealed very few untended beds and that overall the garden looks good. John asked what percentage of DCO members are residents of Dunwoody; no one knew the answer. Eleanor requested that the DCGO.org site remove mention that Affiliate members receive priority as plots become available.

Treasurer- Bill reported that our accounts total \$16,040 plus whatever Art has in his pockets. Ann asked if a recent text from Wells Fargo pertained to her DCGO debit card. No, it's spam. Bill noted that overall expenses have decreased in the past couple of months.

Greenhouse - Richard informed everyone that the collards, arugula and cabbages are now in multi-packs, hardened off and ready for planting in Pantry beds. He also stated that the arugula, spinach and mizuna in the greenhouse are ready for harvest.

Social - Sheila reported that further discussion of the proposed Coffee in the garden has led her to recommend that the event for September be canceled. Eleanor suggested it be moved to sometime in the spring. Kame stressed how many visitors come to the garden every Saturday morning and seconded that a Spring coffee event would be best. All agreed to cancel the 9/10 event.

Sheila suggested that we focus our efforts on attracting as many members as possible to the Annual Meeting 10/9. The BOD agreed that a cookout would be the best format, with members bringing side dishes. Sheila suggested individual invitations to each member, to be posted in their garden plots. All agreed that this is a nice personal touch. The BOD discussed ideas for a “giveaway” to each attendee.

Community Outreach - Kame asked how the mentorship program was developing. Cyndi described how the mentorship idea has morphed into a Private FB page which she and Eleanor have already set up. DCGO members request to be admitted to the FB page; requests are vetted by the FB page admins (Cyndi and Eleanor). Ann suggested that this be officially launched at the Annual Meeting, complete with a demonstration.

Kame reported that she is working on several ideas to promote a sense of community within the membership. She is writing “Meet a Member” articles featuring an individual member in an interview format. She will submit these for the newsletter. She suggested that DCGO members interact as a group with other community gardens by visiting their gardens and hosting them at our garden. She also mentioned a group visit to the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Kame told the BOD about Instagram “Grow Along” posts so that members can try growing unusual crops along with others and post their successes. Kame has provided the City of Dunwoody with DCGO brochures to be included in newcomer packets. All is on track for the upcoming MG Talk notices.

Kame has cracked the Dunwoody Crier - agreeing to provide monthly articles and potentially hosting their photographer/reporter at an upcoming Master Gardener Talk. She reported that a small ad promoting the Spring Plant Sale would be \$65.

Garden - Jeff reported on the recent visit to the garden by Fred and Kate (FoodWell Alliance) and a large group from the Cox Foundation, led by Sara Kennedy. Sara Kennedy complimented DCGO as “the best community garden and orchard in Atlanta”. The group also toured the greenhouse complex with Jeff and Cyndi, asking about the “extremely delicate” condition of the greenhouses and noting that their replacement is needed.

Old Business - Cyndi reported that the ARPFunds to be disbursed by the City of Dunwoody are considerably less than originally anticipated. DCGO has been approved as an "approved non-profit". Cyndi and Ann participated in a call with the City to discuss DCGO's proposal that funds be allocated for greenhouse replacements/improvements. DCGO provided the City with "minimal / better / best" scenarios for the greenhouses with rough price estimates. Although City contacts agree that the greenhouses are well past their life expectancies, it is apparent that the ARPFunds may not come close to even minimal improvements at this point. John stated that ARPFunds will probably be allocated fairly quickly.

Cyndi presented a revised Membership Agreement which requires members to initial each section of the Agreement to show their agreement along with electronically signing the document. The revised Agreement also includes a list of volunteer options for members to select from. The revised Agreement will be integrated into the online renewal process, requiring completion each year before the PayPal link can be accessed. Richard suggested relocating the initial blanks to the left margin for greater visibility. John suggested that language referencing the DCGO Bylaws be added; such language was created and added to the first paragraph. Sheila made a motion to submit the revised document and "flow requirements" to Kapp Concepts for pricing and feedback. The motion was seconded by Richard and passed unanimously.

New Business - Cyndi and Jeff reported that an incident in the garden has caused Parks and Rec to request that members who may be alone in the garden lock themselves in while at the garden. The BOD discussed how to stress safety without disclosing sensitive info and agreed that Ann will include a notice in upcoming newsletters "per a notice from Parks and Rec."

Cyndi reported that the City of Dunwoody is affiliating with Compost Now, an organization looking to collect compostable material at several locations. The City asked if DCGO would be interested in using the end product compost. Cyndi's research reveals that Compost Now accepts meats, dairy, oils and other substances that may not fit within our mission. We will continue to study this. It is unclear if this could replace DeKalb Co. compost. Kame asked if we get a discount from Soil3; only a small one for nonprofits.

Lidl has inquired about providing community volunteers to DCGO. We will consider ideas once we know more about the number and capabilities of volunteers.

Cyndi presented revised DCGO Bylaws to be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Changes are needed to correct oversights and bring the Bylaws into agreement with the revised Membership Agreement. Proposed bylaw changes must be presented to the membership for review no later than 1 week prior to the meeting, so discussion was tabled until the September BOD meeting.

Cyndi reminded the BOD that nominees for the 2022-2023 BOD must be presented to the membership no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Ann asked John Kriek to tell the BOD about himself and his interest in joining the BOD. John is a Dunwoody resident and has served as treasurer in other non-profit groups for several years. Cyndi stated that John has been a huge help in our ARP application process, particularly with budget and financial info.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bone (for Ann Wright)