

MINUTES
December 1, 2020
DUNWOODY COMMUNITY GARDEN BOARD MEETING

MEETING DATE: December 1, 2020

ATTENDEES: Cyndi McGill, Art Simon, Ann Bone, Tielke Baker, Shelia Wilder, Teresa Hennessee, and Jeff Leech

The meeting was called to order by Tielke Baker at 6:31 pm est

This was a virtual meeting via Zoom

Prior to review of the Minutes, a discussion was held regarding compost. A truckload of compost will be delivered to the greenhouse. Separately the main garden would like some wood chips and mulch. Art will request wood chips from Northside Tree Service to be delivered to the main garden and placed beside the compost pile. Note: the compost and wood chip piles have been relocated to the left of the main garden. The right hand side of the garden will remain a gravel parking area (per direction of city of Dunwoody).

Minutes from the last BOD meeting held Nov 3, 2020, were presented. After review by the BOD, a few corrections were made. Art Simon made a motion to accept the Minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by Ann Bone and unanimously approved.

At last meeting, we brainstormed additional revenue paths for the garden. This meeting, additional discussion/thoughts from last meeting's brainstorming:

Additional Discussion/Thoughts (are bulleted below the brainstorming thought):

Cyndi – during heavy planting time in early spring or late fall, we could offer up a building materials kit complete with plants, organic fertilizer, and instructions for sale to members or general public.

Offer up material kits during prime planting seasons in the garden (spring or fall). For planning purposes, what are our most popular plant sellers. Host the plant sale the first weekend in April up at the main garden. Have organic fertilizer at the main garden, inside the fence near the picnic tables. Garden members can purchase plants and immediately plant them in their beds. People representing our different committees . . . harvest, charity, etc. would be at this sale recruiting members. This could become a combination plant sale and recruitment event. We could turn it into a community day / a big event . . . maybe replace the wine/cheese event.

Lemonade Days currently scheduled for April 21 – 25, 2021. Make sure plant sale does not coincide with Lemonade Days.

Have 2 or 3 Master Gardeners at help desk to answer questions. This is not necessarily a revenue generator, but it would be helpful to have master gardeners available to answer questions in conjunction with the plant sale.

Separately Ann is building dates and reserving use of Barn for Master Gardener Sessions (provided we can do in-person meetings).

Ann Bone suggested selling duplicate books from the reference library during the master gardener sessions/proposed monthly plant sale

We need to sort the books first. Ann to head up sorting the books (Cyndi to assist Ann)

Shelia – offer up tours of the main garden in the spring and charge a fee

Table until a later date. Was referring to home gardens in Dunwoody (not necessarily in our main

garden). Not an idea for this year 2021

Mike Hayward – clean out the tool chest in the greenhouse complex and sell any extra unused equipment

Mike Hayward not available, no update

Art Simon – suggested we have a plant sale during the weekend each month to coincide with the Master Gardener’s session, beginning in March. Also that we have an open invitation to participate as a vendor at the Farmer’s market.

Beginning in March with the Master Gardener sessions, we should be doing plant sales at the greenhouse. It would be a logical extension of the Master Gardener session (provided we are able to do in-person meetings in the Spring).

Art plans to start seed plantings in December with peppers so they will be available for April.

Need to prepare instructions, i.e. keep them frost protected until mid-April

Art needs to know what plants we want and when we want the plants available

Who is going to design the materials kit (package)? Need to do that sometime in January to be ready for Spring sale.

We, DCGO, has an open invitation for us to participate in the Farmer’s Market. Don’t think we will be able to utilize as a revenue source. Farmer’s Market moving to different location from Brook Run Park. We may want to consider having someone to go to the Farmer’s Market (at new location) and let the patrons know we are complimenting the Farmer’s Market with flyers directing them to the greenhouse with plants available for sale.

Budget – It may be difficult but we need to figure out our revenue. We have long term goals, repair of the greenhouse. It will cost approximately \$30,000 to replace both greenhouses (polystyrene). The Parks and Rec budget for the city of Dunwoody has been cut by over \$300,000.

Bill to look at past expenditures. Art or Bill to talk to bank. Teresa volunteered to prepare budget if she can get bank statements from 2018, 2019, and 2020. Bill to secure and forward to Teresa

Treasurer’s report

We have \$1,700 in checking account plus additional \$1,000 in PayPal plot renewals

Social Report

Per Shelia, no live events . . . nothing to report

Community Outreach – presented by Ann Bone

Preparing calendar for City of Dunwoody.

Preparing calendar to all media outlets. First quarter Master Gardener sessions plus possibly plant sale in March

Eagle Scout Projects – Art suggested to Ann to do community outreach with some Eagle Scouts.

Art to forward contact information from the Eagle Scouts to Ann to connect with them.

Membership – presented by Cyndi McGill

New members (7) getting tours, brief orientation of the garden. We have 9 new members as of today

Status as of December 1

Open plots (6 total) numbers 302, 313, 402, 507, 509, and 608

Renewals: 40 out of 96

Waiting list; offer pending: 6

Waiting list (still waiting): 16

New members are interested in growing from seed in the greenhouse. Cyndi to copy new members with Art’s contact information, and the new members have been reaching out to Art

Main Garden – presented by Jeff

We now have 96 individual beds

We are getting rid of the concrete blocks at the corners of the beds. With these removed and flush corners of the beds, it is easier for the landscaping personnel to get around.

Currently we pay \$300/month for mowing and landscaping for 12 months, even though for 3 months of the year (December – February) there is no need for mowing. Jeff to speak with landscape vendor and see if we can secure a contract for 8 month's vs 12. Currently we pay \$3,600 for landscaping for the year. With an 8-month contract (March – October) at \$400/month, annual cost would be \$3,200, \$400-dollar savings.

Jeff to get bids from other vendors for comparison. Art to also get bids. Bill to get “adopt a spot” vendors. Jeff will open up bids (Bill/Art) and see what happens.

Other

Bill will send information to Cyndi to get her set up to be able to deposit checks into our checking account

Teresa to get with Bill and work on budget info

Commendations to Art and Jeff on fiscal restraint over the past couple of months.

Note: cost to rebuild an individual bed in the garden in March was approximately \$47.00, now it is approximately \$60.00

Greenhouse – presented by Art

Will start plants for the spring over the next week or so, peppers, tomatoes, herbs, lettuces.

We have lots of volunteers

Our website has provided for potentially more volunteers than we need. Someone new comes by every week to the greenhouse

Could we have dedicated hours for the greenhouse, say Thursday thru Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm? If we have so many volunteers, perhaps we could train them to open and close greenhouse.

Additional New Business

Garage Sale / tools / bbq grill

Shelia volunteered (coerced?) to head up the garage sale. Place an ad in the Crier, fund raiser for DCGO. Anybody to donate to help us raise money (company write off). Yard sale better in mid-to late Spring. Maybe reach out to Next Door social media site for publicity. Ann has their contact info (Next Door), but we have no events.

With no further business, motion made by Art and seconded by Jeff to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm est

Respectfully submitted

Teresa Hennessee
Recording Secretary

