

MINUTES
January 5 2021
DUNWOODY COMMUNITY GARDEN BOARD MEETING

MEETING DATE: January 5, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order by Tielke Baker at 6:31 pm est. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes from the last BOD meeting held Dec 1, 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 Shelia Wilder and unanimously approved.

Membership – Cyndi McGill

New members since the last Board meeting are:

Issac Leif – Plot 313

Scott Sailor – Plot 509

Rose Silvestro – Plot 402

Teckmon Siaw – Plot 509

Larry Mishik surrendered plot 205

There are 13 plots that are unpaid for 2021: Plot numbers 115, 203, 209, 210, 216, 315, 405, 505, 515, 605, 609, 613, and 614

80 out of 96 plots have been paid for 2021

There are 3 open plots, numbers 205, 501, and 608

13 plots are pending cancellation (tomorrow Jan 6, 2021)

Wait list – 2 offers are pending and 19 are currently on the wait list

Plot 209 – Shelia/Ann to follow-up with Janice Fett to see if she wishes to cancel her plot

Plot 614 – Shelia to follow-up with Diane Markel and see if she wishes to cancel her plot

Message to be sent to all those members who are up for cancellation . . . “We are sorry, but due to non-payment of your renewal, your plot will be cancelled. If you have anything in your bed, please remove by this Saturday, Jan 9, 2021” or something to that effect with a little more diplomacy.

Locks at the main garden – We will hold off another week to change the locks. Next week clean beds and change locks within the next two weeks after Jan 15, 2021. We will send out notice to all members prior to changing of the locks

Treasury Update – Bill Grossman

\$4,082 total for both the checking and savings account

Teresa submitted a draft of the budget comparing 2020 expenses versus budget to assist in planning the 2021 budget. It was in a very rough draft, uncompleted version, but submitted to the BOD to verify if the information and formatting was what the BOD wanted to see. A more completed version will be submitted at the next BOD meeting.

Garden update

Update on landscaping maintenance. The vendor accepted our proposal for \$400/month for their

services for an 8-month contract, March – October 2021

Greenhouse update – presented by Art

Getting the heater replaced in the large greenhouse. The city to cover the cost of \$3,500. A part is due in this week. Completion of repairs expected the following week

Everything growing in the beds in the greenhouse is for charity.

Plating crops for herbs for the spring plant sale

Flowers are being propagated.

We have 3 to 4 volunteers that come every week.

Today Art sold \$200 to Soren Ludwig: gardenias, rosebushes. Soren has some tables, black plastic tables (like what we currently have in the greenhouse complex) to donate to DCGO.

These tables are able to display hanging baskets.

Art has about \$400 to deposit into our account includes money from sale of plants and new membership monies)

This week the temperature will drop significantly. We checked with Art, but he did not think we would need heaters in the greenhouse during this temperature drop

Gabe Neps from the Dunwoody Parks and Rec department requested that we remove all vegetation from the fence surrounding the greenhouse complex. This includes honeysuckle and cardinal vine. Across the city, all fencing around parks will not have vegetation growing on it.

Art to reach out to Flannery to secure volunteers to assist with removing the vines from the fencing.

Tielke to go ahead and cut the vines at the bottom of the fencing

Harvest update – Shelia Wilder

Harvest team members: Eleanor Geddes, Judith Milton, Deb, Janice Fett, Marcia Dunn, Shelia Wilder, and unofficial member Ann Bone. Every week 4 to 5 persons show up harvesting in the main garden, then take the produce to the Barn. Additional harvest occurs in the greenhouse. We take it, sort it, pack it in small grocery bags and take it to St. Pat's

For calendar year 2020, we have a total of 1,914 pounds donated to St. Pat's. This is pretty much what we harvested in 2019. The difference is due to sweet potatoes.

The bulk of the harvest team are garden members who tend their own beds and work both charity beds and harvest in the main garden.

We are tearing out two charity beds in the far right hand corner to move them away from the fence so we can walk behind them. Tielke to re-do the beds

Community Outreach – Ann Bone

Updated website to remove Mike from membership and add Cyndi's picture as Membership Director.

The locks on the main garden will change in January

Welcome new members – just use their first name and last initial with their new plot numbers for notices going to new members

January Master Gardener talk RE: Invasive Plants – this Saturday, Jan 9. It has been posted in Aha Connect, Next Door, etc. It will be a zoom session. It has been posted on our website.

We missed the deadline for The Crier for this Master Gardener session. Will send notices to the correct person at The Crier going forward.

The MLK service event for the city of Dunwoody is a food donation. Food collection points are Malachi's Pantry and others. Timing is 9 to 3 pm. Perhaps could do vine removal as a service project; however, after discussion, vine removal was tabled as a service project for another time.

Old Business

Moving Charity Beds from main garden to greenhouse complex

The City of Dunwoody does not have an opinion, no problem for us to move beds from the main

garden to the greenhouse complex.

The current charity bed team does not want to make the move the greenhouse complex as they enjoy maintaining the charity beds at the main garden while they are tending their own individual plots. They don't want to maintain their individual beds, then have to travel to the greenhouse to maintain charity beds there. If we do move the charity beds to the greenhouse, we will need to secure other garden members to maintain charity beds at the greenhouse complex.

We are looking to build 20 additional charity beds in the greenhouse complex at approx. \$60/bed, the total cost is around \$1,200.

Promotion/marketing – if we put extra beds near the greenhouse (charity) then the greenhouse complex becomes an area for growing from seed, charity beds, one location for lots of volunteer events.

The main garden would become an area for members and their individual plots

Part of the impetus to move the beds dealt with need to generate income for the garden. By reallocating the charity beds to individual plots in the main garden, we could have more individual beds to rent out annually

Motion was made by Ann Bone to table a vote on moving the charity beds from the main garden to the greenhouse complex for two months. Will bring back up in March to discuss. Motion seconded by Art and passed.

Waiver Policy for Charity Bed Tenders

Last year half of the members paid for their individual plot and half did not.

In the past we deferred the cost of an annual individual plot to those garden members who worked the charity beds

Discussion was held to offer \$60 worth of plants from the greenhouse to members who manage charity beds.

Suggestion made to separate harvest team from charity bed (plant and maintain charity bed) team
Maybe we need to consider raising our annual dues from \$60 to \$75.

We need to take a poll of other community gardens in the area and see what they are charging for the amenities given. Can't do anything about this now as we have just had our renewal.

However, may need to address in the fall.

Motion was made by Bill and Seconded by Ann Bone to give charity tenders (those who plant and maintain charity beds) an option of either deferring the cost of their individual plot for a year or equal value of plants from the green house. With one opposed, the motion was passed.

A current list of charity bed tenders needs to be forwarded to Cyndi to update membership list

New Business – plant sale 2021 – discussion led by Cyndi McGill

Cyndi proposed some in-depth planning around the plant sales for 2021

Over the next 3 weeks coordinate discussion individually or in small groups

Project Plan for plant sales (to be presented at the Feb BOD meeting)

By the way, in addition to plants for sale, we will also offer up books and equipment.

Add to the list (plant signs) – Tielke

With no further business, Art made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted

Teresa Hennessee
Recording Secretary

