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MINUTES
July 7, 2020
DUNWOODY COMMUNITY GARDEN BOARD MEETING

MEETING DATE: July 7, 2020

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

The meeting was called to order by Ann Bone at 6:30 pm est

Minutes from the last BOD meeting held May 5, 2020, were presented. After review by the BOD, a few corrections were made. Tielke Bake made a motion to accept the Minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by Shelia Wilder and unanimously approved.

Bee Dunwoody recap – presented by Ann Bone

The first time event between Bee Dunwoody and DCGO was held Saturday, June 27. Overall the event went very well.

About 50 people stopped by the open house at the main garden. Unfortunately, there were very few children so the scavenger hunt was not utilized to its fullest.

Nathan Sparks, coordinator of the event for Bee Dunwoody, sent email **missed this portion . . . I can't remember what the information was in the email that Nathan sent – unclear if he sent email out announcing the event or if the email contained a different subject matter. Ann do you recall?**

Bee Dunwoody was able to get 16 families to sign the “pollinator pledge.” The city of Dunwoody is trying to raise awareness of pollinators and the benefits to the community. This awareness is to combat Mister Mosquito and other firms who spray pesticides to kill mosquitos. Nathan Sparks indicated he was interested in continuing the joint partnership going forward While the main garden was hosting guests and Nathan Sparks was discussing the benefits of pollinators, DCGO had a small plant sale at the greenhouse. We raised about \$300 in cash sales and another _____ in electronic sales; not bad for being open for only two hours.

There was another event that occurred, a young women became engaged in the shade garden, congratulations!

Regarding additional plant sales, the Farmer Market will be back in operation (post Covid-19) beginning July 11. We could always set up a table (register with the city/Farmer's Market) if we wanted.

Art has sold a lot of plants over the past several months on a walk-up basis for those visiting the greenhouse. Cumulative amount is approximately \$5,500.

Finance update – presented by Bill Grossman

We have a little over \$6,000 in our account

No PayPal activity since April

Membership update – presented by Ann as Mike was not present.

Per Mike, currently we have a very long waiting list, approximately 29 persons

Ann was unable to verify with Mike if had an opportunity to speak to garden members whose plants were left untended. Jeff was to submit list of untended plots to Mike to follow-up. There was list of 6 to 8 garden beds that needed to be spruced up.

Discussion was held about what to do with plots than had not been tended. We are in a very

difficult time with Covid-19 preventing garden members to come to the garden to take care of their plots.

We will continue to clean up plots of garden members and replant them with new vegetables from the green house. We will continue this process until we receive complaints from members. So far, no complaints from garden members on this process. However, this is not the way we had envisioned our membership process to work of having garden members to be accountable for their plots.

Overtime, the waiting list may evaporate

There was one complaint from a garden member wearing a mask while outdoors who was distressed that another garden member approached her at the main garden to speak to her without wearing a mask.

Another garden member took it upon himself to clean out the bed of an adjacent garden member that was left unattended and planted some more vegetables in the unattended plot. **Would this new planting be used as a charity bed?**

Website Development Update – presented by Cyndi McGill

Ann and Cyndi did a second scrub of the proposed new website (presented to the BOD by Cyndi at the last meeting).

We have a landing page with “About Us” that will include BOD info and Minutes

The Membership section will have information to become a member and your options including description of membership or affiliate membership and application. Membership page will look very similar to the current link to PayPal

We have also included an area to change contact information for members

Events and Classes section. We have a calendar available for persons to see what events are available and ability to drill down on dates and descriptions of the events.

Volunteer page – separate links to pages to volunteer for any of our major activities, charity bed, harvest team, etc.

There will be a donations page with links to PayPal. It was determined to not have multiple PayPal accounts tied to the website. There will only be one account. Most donations are for \$60, the cost of a yearly membership. There are reports that can be run via PayPal (which we have not utilized) that may be able to categorize amounts as renewals, donations, or other; therefore, not necessary for separate PayPal accounts for donations or other.

Cyndi will check with the developers to see if adding an honorarium or memorial feature as a donation could be implemented. In addition, what would be the work flow to notify membership on the honorarium and then membership to notify the Chairman so appropriate thank you could be sent. **(Ann/Cyndi can you verify the above statements are accurate?)**

Cyndi and Ann are finalizing the membership pages and final polishing.

At the next BOD meeting may do a demo of the updated website with the unveiling of the finished website at our annual meeting.

We have paid 50% of the total \$2,800 invoice from the website developers. We have received an invoice for the balance, but won't pay the balance until after the website is finalized and training has been accomplished for BOD members so we will know how to use all the features in going forward

MG Talk for July – presented by Ann

Mary Novotny will present seed saving at the next Master Gardener session to be held this Saturday, July 11. Due to social distancing, only 12 persons will be able to attend this Master Gardener session. The session will be held in the Barn with a PowerPoint presentation. Masks are required

Due to Covid-19, we have not advertised any of the Master Gardener Sessions through any of our traditional media outlets. Ann has notified the garden members and friends of DCGO only via email utilizing Mail Chimp. For the Seed Saving presentation, registration beforehand is

required. So far ten of the 12 spaces have been reserved. We anticipate a waiting list. In addition, we will be disinfecting the surfaces and have hand sanitizer available. Bottle water will be available, but no other refreshments will be offered. Per Tielke, an HDMI cord has been installed for PowerPoint presentations so presenters can utilize their respective laptops for the presentation without having to use a remote (Tielke, can you verify the statement above is accurate) Following the PowerPoint presentation, Mary will do a “walk about” in the main garden to answer any additional questions about seed saving.

Annual Meeting Date Selection

Dates were discussed and Sunday September 20th was the selected date. Bylaws indicate annual meeting to be held in August, but due to the heat, we opted to go with a date in September. (Note: do we need to make any change to the bylaws with this change of August to September?)

Annual meeting will begin at 4:00 pm, with dinner served at 5:00 pm.

As in the past, DCGO will provide the entrée, hot dogs and hamburgers, and we will request the garden members to bring side dishes or desert.

We will need to set up around 1:30 pm in the afternoon

Bill volunteered to set up music

Succession planning – presented by Ann

Stasia Kelly advised she would be happy to continue in her role as Community Outreach/Public Relations for the BOD or to co-chair with someone. In January of this year, a motion was passed by the BOD to waive the membership fee for Stasia to allow her to remain a garden member in good standing (without a plot); thus allowing her to remain on the BOD and continue supporting the BOD as she has done for us for a number of years. Ann to discuss with Stasia if she wishes to continue in her role or to co-chair.

Separately, Shelia will find out if another garden member is interested in the Community Outreach/Public Relations position

The only other garden member who expressed an interest to join the BOD was Tilda Liu. She would be happy to be Recording Secretary if needed.

Art Simon has indicated that he does not want to be on the BOD and attend BOD meetings but he would still want to continue managing the greenhouse. Discussion was held among the BOD members of how to address this request. While in the short term, this arrangement could be accommodated, for the long term, it may not be correct to have management of the greenhouse (a highly responsible position) be held by someone who is not on the BOD and not in communication with the BOD on their goals and aims.

Bill Grossman agreed to be a liaison between the Greenhouse Manager and the BOD to communicate direction and decisions from BOD meetings to the Greenhouse Manager and to communicate back to the BOD updates/requests from the Greenhouse Manager. In addition, this will be an opportunity for the wealth of knowledge of the operations of the greenhouse (which Art has) to be shared with the current and future BOD members

The By-Laws, under Greenhouse, state “The Board oversees Garden activities at the Greenhouse complex at Brook Run Park. One Board member will be designated as “Greenhouse Manager” and will oversee all operations at the Greenhouse complex.

After additional discussion, Ann Bone made a proposal to change the By-Laws to read “The Board oversees Garden activities at the Greenhouse complex at Brook Run Park. The BOD shall designate a Greenhouse Manager who will oversee operations at the greenhouse complex as directed by the BOD.” The motion was seconded by Cyndi and unanimously accepted.

Another item for discussion by the BOD came from the Powers and Duties section of By-Laws which state, “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.” In his role as Greenhouse Manager, Art has to purchase a number of supplies for the greenhouse. As he does not wish to be a BOD member, this is a conundrum. Additional discussion was held by the BOD on how to address this issue. A second proposal was made by Ann to change the By-laws under Powers and Duties to the following: “The BOD shall issue credit cards to select members to facilitate BOD approved and budgeted appropriations and remove the following sentence, “Credit cards are approved for the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Main Garden Manager, and the Greenhouse Manager.” The motion was seconded by Shelia and unanimously accepted.

Greenhouse update – presented by Art Simon

Art is shutting down the greenhouse. He will not be growing anything in the greenhouse this summer.

Other

Ann asked if Bill had heard anything from the city of Dunwoody regarding opening up events. There is an event scheduled for August 1, Storeytime time in the Garden, a city sponsored event.

Ann, I didn't get bill's response. Can you fill this in?

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm est

Respectfully submitted

Teresa Hennessee
Recording Secretary