

Briar Chapel Garden Club Minutes February 11, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7PM

Welcome & Recognitions: (David Whitehouse):

- Welcomed everyone to the first garden club meeting of 2020
- The past co-presidents, Laurie and Liz, were recognized for all their hard work over the past 2 years and presented with a thank you card and gift card to Southern States garden center.

Membership report (Marie Rape):

- 2 new families (4 individuals) joined in the last month
- A total of 50 households are members (70 individuals)
- Laurie prepared a new "Welcome Letter" that will be sent to all new members.
- The new letter was passed around for the members attending the meeting to see.
- New members joining the club will continue to be asked if they have special interests (flowers, fundraising, events, composting, etc.)

Finance report (Liz Rolison and Marci Rackliffe):

- Marci and Liz are working with HOA leadership on options for how bank accounts will be managed going forward in 2020. The HOA wants all clubs to close bank accounts but a definitive plan has not yet been outlined. This will affect our Paypal account.
- Marci reports no financial activity in January

Planting Report (David Whitehouse):

- Snap peas were planted in both gardens in mid-January 2020. The ones in Briar Patch appeared to have been eaten by rabbits. David repaired the chicken wire and re-planted more snap peas.
- Considering putting out hard traps and moving any rabbits captured to another location.
- Considering purchasing Supersod – large bag for \$160.00. Would deliver to Bolder Park (outside gate) and have members carry it into garden via wheelbarrows. Can move remaining sod to Briar Patch. David will check into purchase & delivery.
- Composting going well; Sue Pflum will re-test compost in March or April.
- At the next meeting, the group will discuss what they would like to plant.
- May want to consider a short survey to determine what members want to plant although last year had low response rate and the result did not impact our decisions very much.
- Herbs: Marci reported they are all doing well right now
- Flowers: Linda & Noreen asked what their budget was for purchasing flowers & seeds. Agreed a budget of \$200 for the year was reasonable. Noreen would like to send an email to the GC membership to invite those interested in helping with flowers to a separate planning meeting.

Garden Work Days (David Whitehouse):

- David proposed changing workdays from current Thursday and Saturday AM schedule to Thursday and Sunday AM. The issue of Sunday church was raised as a potential conflict, but others agreed Sundays worked for them. Some proposed alternating Saturday and Sunday.
- The membership agreed to try out the new schedule this spring and see if attendance was majorly affected.

Calendar of Events (Phyllis Bassin) :

- Plant Sale Fundraisers: Looking at different flower distributors. Kings Greenhouse is the most promising. Looking at one more from Raleigh.
- Speakers – request for ideas of people and or topics to be presented:
 - Debbie Rouse (pollinator garden outside Chatham Mills) – very busy
 - Tour of UNC Employee garden (off Wilson Drive)
 - Matt Jones (cooperative extension agent with Chatham County) – possibly to speak on propagating plants
 - Amy Strunk – talk on how to develop a home garden plan
 - Tour a nearby lavender farm
 - Tour the Orchid Farm in Pittsboro
 - Botanical Gardens
 - Visit Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh

Technology (Liz Rolison):

- The website license was renewed
- The main domain name is due for renewal March 9th
- The license for the software that allows us to collect registration data through the online form is also due for renewal March 9th
- If lose our GC bank account and have to do away with Paypay, then we will not need to renew the license for the software for the online form.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Minutes prepared by Marie Rape