

**BRIAR CHAPEL GARDEN CLUB**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**July 9, 2019**

**\*\*IMPORTANT MEETING TAKE-AWAY\*\***

**Please do not touch the irrigation lines for any reason. Do not move them. Work carefully around them so they don't get punctured by a tool.**

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Financial Report (Liz)

The current balance is \$5,178.02. Some income from new memberships was balanced out by a few expenses. The HOA budgeting season is coming up in August. The club will ask the HOA to fund an electrical line in Briar Patch. The current electrical box is located in the meadow just outside the garden. Liz will contact Rick Morang.

Membership (Stacy)

Eight new households have joined the club. There are currently 74 household memberships in total. Stacy will provide Alyssa with information regarding garden membership for the weekly HOA news flashes. An orientation will be scheduled for new members. While members are accepted at any time during the year, new households must join in September/October in order to vote for officers in the November election. An Open House will be scheduled in early to mid September.

Planting Report (Laurie)

Noreen gave a report regarding the flowers. She will create a bouquet of flowers for Brie Arthur. The flowers are coming up nicely in the Briar Patch. The herb patch looks good and has an abundance of basil. It is recommended that soil be added to the herb plot in Boulder.

We have experienced a variety of challenges with vegetables this year. All the sweet potatoes were lost in the Briar Patch. String beans were lost as well. The field peas are not thriving. Members will decide in August what to plant in the sweet potato bed. On August 1, field peas will be replanted well as squash, beets, and collards. In Mid-August, cool weather crops, such as lettuce, will be planted.

There are rabbits in both gardens and there have been rodent sightings. There may be a hole in the fence at Briar. A team will be assembled to focus on critter control. Alan and Mike will patrol the perimeters and inspect the rabbit fence to see where the gaps may be located. It was suggested to plant more onions and garlic around the garden perimeters. The possibility of deer encroachment was discussed, including how to discourage them.

Tomatoes are coming up late as a result of the heat.

Engineering Report (Larry)

Larry reports that there have been lots of cuts to the irrigation lines in Boulder, including cuts in the feeder tubes. The lines are being moved and rolled up and in some cases not replaced. Members are urged not to touch the lines for any reason. Mark will run flags down the water

lines in Boulder. If a problem is observed, please call Larry Pflum. There have been no irrigation problems in the flower and herb areas of the garden.

A cable organizer was suggested. Myatt will be asked to check the spigots in Boulder.

### Social Report (Liz)

Dan Taylor's Cooking Class	Saturday, July 20 from 2:00 to 4:00 ~ 35 members have signed up. Participants can bring wine. All will be able to taste the food, and the recipes will be posted on the website.
Brie Arthur's Garden Tour	July 27 ~ Meet in the parking lot at 9:00 to car pool to her home in Fuguay Varina ~ 18 members have signed up to attend.
Matt Jones	September 12 ~ Harvesting/Preserving Herbs ~ Clubhouse ~ This event is open to all residents.
Harvest Dinner	October 26

### Fundraising (Liz)

Multi-Flora has been bought. It has not been a smooth transition. Liz has searched for a new company for the Poinsettia fundraiser without success. The profit margin would be under 20% with the new company. A bulb fundraiser would be more profitable. Liz has compared companies. A bulb sale would be a little more time intensive upon delivery. Bags of bulbs would need to be repackaged. The profit margins are 25-50%. These bulbs will cost more than typical bulbs sold on the market but will be of higher quality. Usually orders need to be submitted by October 1. Liz is considering six companies. Two of the vendors offer Dutch bulbs.

A motion was made asking if members would like to sell bulbs for the fall fundraiser. Motion carried unanimously.

### Additional Discussion

Mark Sonnentag brought up the Green Initiative that has been spearheaded by the owners of Breakaway Cafe. They are working with the HOA landscapers to use better practices with herbicides or better products. Myatt is experimenting with products. The group is encouraging the creation of a pollinator garden at Veranda. Amy is gathering various groups aligned with their vision. This subject will be on the agenda for the next garden club meeting in August.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.