

BRIAR CHAPEL GARDEN CLUB

Meeting Notes May 14, 2019

Laurie Leichman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Planting Update (Laurie)

Snap peas at Boulder were a great success and are all gone. Our current pickables are: Swiss chard, bok choy, kale, romaine and bibb lettuce, spinach, and radishes. Carrots, beets, and garlic are coming along but are not yet ready.

Recently planted vegetables include:

- Sweet Peppers - green, red, and yellow (both gardens)
- Mild Banana Peppers (Boulder)
- Okra (Briar Patch)
- Cucumbers (both gardens)
- Field Peas (Boulder)
- Arugula (Boulder)
- Cherry Tomatoes, Better Boys, Big Boys, Roma, Juliettes (both gardens); Cherokee Purple (Boulder)
- Squash - Mix of yellow Summer Squash and Zucchini, some plants, some seeds (Boulder)

Mark Bumby has selected a variety of hot peppers to plant in the raised bed at Briar Patch. Varieties include jalapeño, habanero, poblano, cayenne, and Carolina reaper. They will be planted from mildest to hottest and clearly labeled. It should be noted that Carolina Reapers are extremely hot and should be handled with care.

A workday is planned this Thursday at Briar. The rest of the planting will be at Briar. The eggplant will all be planted at Briar. Sweet potatoes will be planted in June at Briar.

Flower Update (Noreen)

Flowers are planted in both gardens. Zinnias were planted from seeds. Supports for the flowers were discussed. The fire ant nest is almost dead. The stump will be burned this fall. There are lots of strawberries to pick in Boulder.

Herbs Update (Marcia)

Plantings in Boulder include parsley, purple basil, Thai basil, green basil. Cilantro is planted by the big rock near the rosemary. The parsley in Boulder is doing well. Butterflies ate the parsley in Briar Patch. Mike suggests planting Baptista (false indigo).

Engineering (Laurie, Larry, Mike)

The following club members were recognized for their specialized support: Mark Sonnentag for pest control and garden path maintenance, Sue Pflum for signage,

Michael Gorman for compost management, Moxie Greenwell for fertilizing, and Larry Pflum and Don Michels for irrigation management.

Water lines will be laid out. Take care while working around them as they pierce easily. A nick can quickly turn into a flood. They are easy to move out of the way.

Tomato cages are needed for eggplant and peppers. All cage donations are welcome.

Mike recommends selling the tiller. Tilling is no longer considered “best practice.” The tiller cost about \$600 and was in good operating order when it was put away in the fall. After a lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of retaining the tiller, the decision was tabled.

Financial Update (Liz)

The current balance is \$5,682.44. A few new memberships were added this month.

The spring flower sale yielded a profit of \$700. The vendor was a challenge to work with, so a new vendor will be sought out for the fall poinsettia sale. Liz thanked Leila McKay and Neil Pederson for their leadership and hard work during the sale. The future focus will be on perennial sales.

Mike Hill will serve as a backup for Liz in the area of technology.

Governance Update (Laurie)

Our charter club status has been approved. The Briar Chapel Garden Club is officially the first chartered club in Briar Chapel. A final requirement is the appointment of a Safety Officer. The Safety Officer's role includes developing a list of rules for using equipment and expectations for working safely in the garden. In the event of an accident, the Safety Officer reports the incident to the HOA. Marcia Rackliffe volunteered to assume the position of Safety Officer for the club. A suggestions was made to purchase a couple of first aid kits for the gardens.

Social Update (Liz and Stacey)

The following activities are planned:

- Open House and Garden Tour ~ June 1 ~ 3:00 to 5:00
Volunteers are needed. Liz will reach out to Jason and Rachel. Light refreshments and water bottles will be available. Billie will make cookies.
- Mediterranean-Themed Cooking Class with Dan Taylor ~ July 20 ~ Club members, only
- Visit to Brie Arthur's Home Garden ~ July 27 ~ Leave @ 9:00 a.m.

Bill Sunda was recognized for donating hedge clippers and gardening books.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

