

Briar Chapel Garden Club Minutes March 10, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Finance report (Marci Rackliffe & David Whitehouse):

- David explained that although the HOA initially asked that all funds for the club go through first residential, it has now said that the club can take control of finances once again. We are waiting on a return of the club's money and then will re-open our bank account.
- First residential will charge us a \$5 per month administration fee.
- The club will continue to be covered for liability insurance by first residential
- The club will continue to file their own tax returns but this should not pose a problem.
- The club will continue to submit capital expenses to the HOA while operating expenses will be covered by the club.
- Marci provided a financial report:
 - 2019 Surplus - \$5,794.05
 - Income YTD - \$101.04
 - Total Revenue YTD - \$5,895.09
 - Expenses YTD - \$231.03 (\$200 was for gift cards to outgoing leadership)
 - Funds Available - \$5,664.06

Membership report (Marie Rape):

- A total of 51 households are members (71 individuals)
- 1 new member joined this month (Marci will forward person's information to Marie so a welcome email can be sent).
- A suggestion was made to create a digital directory of club members – names and pictures - to help members get to know one another. Several individuals cited privacy concerns.

Spring Planting Report (David Whitehouse):

- Snap peas growing very well in both gardens
- Worked in garden last weekend and planted onions, cilantro
- More work to be done. Plan to hold a workday in Bolder on Thursday – weeding and planting.
- Club members were encouraged to adopt sections of the garden for weeding and care. This could be put into a newsletter or announcement to be sent out to the club for people to sign up.
- Discussion around idea of tilling the ground to get rid of weeds but others said the drop cloth in place prevented much of the weeds. Not clear if the tiller is working, David agreed to check it.
- The cold frame will be used for flowers in the coming weeks.
- Announcement made that Zinnia seeds were available (harvested from last year's flowers)
- German Johnson tomatoes – we will try to plant a few this year. Sue will plan to order plants when available.
- Water lines – Larry will pull out all the old line and replace all of them this year. The layout will be rearranged as needed.

Technology Update

- Need to reactivate paypal and online program for registration submission now that we will be managing our finances again. David will follow up with Liz for what needs to be done.

Calendar of Events (Phyllis Bassin):

- Spring fund raiser (plant sale): Looked at several flower distributors, but difficult getting guarantees of plants that will be available and many have short turnaround times for placing orders. May consider putting sale up in early April with a 3-4 week turnaround. No firm decision.
- Social Events and Speakers:
 - Amy Strunk will talk on landscape design for small yards and ideas for replacing what was planted by builder
 - Matt Jones – propagating plants and vegetables from seed
 - Dan Taylor will offer his cooking class once again
 - October 24th will be date of Harvest dinner (clubhouse reserved)
 - Lavender farm is costly, although includes lunch, but requires a deposit of \$300
 - Debbie Rouse (pollinator garden) available for tours Wednesdays or Saturdays in May, June or July.
 - Visit Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh (let them know 30 days in advance) – cost of \$5 each. Might tack on a trip to State Farmers Market,
 - March 28th is Ag day in Pittsboro – many activities planned, 10am – 4pm. Ag Center is on Hwy 64 west going out of Pittsboro.
- Mike G recommended we coordinate our speakers with Breakaway Café's green initiative so that we aren't duplicating speakers and times.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Minutes prepared by Marie Rape