

BRIAR CHAPEL GARDEN CLUB
Meeting Notes
January 8, 2019

Liz Rolison called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. She welcomed new members and all members introduced themselves.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Stacey Donelan)

Currently, there are 61 household memberships and 84 members in all. Registration is open all year. The previous policy that put a cap on membership has been discontinued.

FINANCE REPORT (Liz Rolison)

The current account balance is \$5,360. Jean Holstein will prepare a financial statement and will complete the paperwork to file for non-profit status this year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Liz Rolison)

Events are tentative. A point person is needed for each event.

Membership Drive: An Open House Garden Tour will be held in the spring as a recruitment event. Stacey will spearhead. The Membership Drive is held in September/October. Board elections are scheduled for November.

Fund Raisers: There will be two fund raisers — a spring flower sale and a fall pansy/mum sale or a poinsettia sale. Liz will help with the online forms for the sales. A point person is needed for each fund raiser.

Speakers: The two subjects that have been suggested are how to grow native flowering perennials and how to harvest, preserve, and store herbs. Mark Sonnentag recommended that we ask Hillary from Town and Country to speak to our club. He will also follow up on his suggestion to consider a bee expert and researcher from Canada who lives in the area.

Tour of Brie Arthur's Garden in Fuquay-Varina: Brie Arthur mixes edibles, herbs, and flowers with foundation plants throughout the garden. Lisa Walton volunteered to help with this event.

Cooking Class: Scheduled for the summer. Dan Taylor will present this event.

Harvest Dinner: Scheduled in the fall. Linda Thomas volunteered to work with Dan Taylor. Dan Taylor has volunteered to prepare the entree.

Holiday Boulder Park Lighting Party: Scheduled in December.

Pancake Breakfast: While no final decision has been made, the current opinion is that the pancake breakfast is too time consuming and the clubhouse is not equipped with sufficient electrical capabilities to host this event. A member would need to come forward and agree to plan and execute the Pancake Breakfast. A suggestion was made to add a question to the survey.

GARDEN CLUB SURVEY (Liz Rolison)

A survey will be sent out to all members via an email link this week to solicit member input on the preferred plants as well as to determine which weekday would work best as an alternate workday to the Saturday time. Laurie and Mike will oversee one workday and Liz will oversee the other. It is requested that members complete the survey within the next two weeks.

PLANTING PLANS/WORKDAYS (Liz Rolison)

There will be three planting periods. Master gardeners are developing the planting plans using responses from the member survey. The plans will be maintained on the website and updated throughout the year.

The following leadership teams are in place for 2019:

- Vegetables — Mike Gorman, Sue Pflum, Laurie Leichman
- Herbs — Marcia Racliffe, Marcia Murto
- Flowers — Noreen Oedronneau, Lisa Walton, Linda Thomas

The first plants to be planted will be snap peas in late January. Late winter/early spring cleanup dates will be announced.

GARDEN PATHS (Liz Rolison)

We need to control the weeds in the garden paths so we can focus on the beds . Multiple strategies have been explored and the most cost effective selected. A workday will be scheduled to weed the paths. A vendor quote to add pea gravel was obtained. A recommended product, EcoBlend Organic Weed Control, will be applied with water three times a year.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION (Liz Rolison)

The location of the two gardens was shared with the new members. Liz reviewed the lockbox procedure and the gate code. The gate code for both gardens has been changed to 2019. It was explained that each garden has tools located in the sheds but that gardeners may want to bring their own tools. Plant maps will be updated. Parking issues at Briar Patch were discussed as well as the need to park on the adjacent streets rather than on the alley. The desire to be a good neighbor to the residents living near the Briar Patch was emphasized. Lisa Walton and Linda Thomas volunteered to help Noreen Oedronneau with the Flower Team.

CHILDREN'S GARDEN (Liz Rolison)

Liz explained that there are two schools of thought related to how the gardens provide opportunities for children. In the Briar Patch there is an area set aside for a designated Children's Garden. Val Vickers held separate gardening events with children; however, she had difficulty finding dates and times that worked for family participation. Jason, on the other hand, worked with children in the gardens along side the adults. We need to decide which model will be the most successful. Laurie and Liz prefer having children and their parents work along side each other in the gardens. If you have an opinion, it is recommended that you include it in the comments section of the survey. This subject will be on the agenda for the February meeting, and membership will vote on the model that most represents the club mission going forward.

ENGINEERING

Don Michels has volunteered to be trained in the irrigation system functions to serve as a backup to Larry Pflum. A volunteer is needed to lead the Engineering Team (i.e. maintenance of sheds, plant support structures, etc.).

TECHNOLOGY (Liz Rolison)

Currently, Liz is responsible for all the technology; however, she needs a backup volunteer. Mike Hill volunteered to work on technology with Liz.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.