

BRIAR CHAPEL GARDEN CLUB

MEETING NOTES

May 8, 2018

Laurie called the meeting to order at 7:03. Members were reminded of the following club ground rules:

- one person speaks at a time
- members raise hands to be recognized
- members say their names before they speak

Pancake Breakfast (Jim Neill)

Jim thanked all the volunteers who made the pancake breakfast a success and shared that Management had commended the club for the stellar clean up. Net profit was just over \$400. The electrical system continues to present challenges, but members have learned how to manage it.

A “lessons learned” discussion debriefed the activity. Some of the points mentioned include:

1. Servers never received any relief during the breakfast. We may want to implement shifts next year.
2. Mark Sonnentag asked about the attendees who RSVP'd versus the walk-ins as there were more walk-ins than those who pre-registered this year. This is the opposite of the norm of past years. This year, flyers were not distributed as homeowners had complained about flyers attached to their door handles. Online registration required payment. Perhaps folks did not want to register with their credit cards. Having the breakfast on the same weekend as the yard sale prevented some from attending. In the future, the club will book the Pancake Breakfast on the calendar earlier to avoid conflicts with other Association activities.
3. Additional signs would be helpful next year. The sign posted at the circle is missing.

In past years, profit from the pancake breakfast has been \$350-\$400 each year. This year, there were 124 attendees; 50 pre-registered and the remaining were walk-ins. The goal of this event is to bring the community together and is not considered a major fund raiser for the club. Dan Taylor recommends that the club consider a barbecue rather than a pancake breakfast next year. Sue Pflum shared that Brittany had told her that the Pancake Breakfast ranked high on the list of community activities valued by the homeowners.

Robin was thanked for making the gluten-free pancakes, and Dan Taylor was acknowledged for doing all the shopping.

Finance Report (Jean Holstein)

The income YTD is \$2527. Total revenue is \$6,505.97. Expenses were \$1,344.34. The current balance is \$5,161.63.

Planting (Laurie Leichman)

Saturday, May 12, will be the last big workday of the season. Plan to spend about one hour starting at 8:30. Tomatoes, okra, and eggplant will be planted and weeding needs to be done. Going forward, only ongoing maintenance will be necessary.

Someone is picking the beets; however, they are not ready. Julie suggested using a flag system to identify which plants are ready for harvesting. Sue Pflum reminded members that she has volunteered to provide labels. Gail will donate 50 white survey flags. These flags will be placed to identify which plants are ready for harvesting.

Lockbox challenges were discussed and the proper way to lock and unlock the gates reviewed. Liz explained that the button at the bottom of the lockbox needs to be pressed. Press C and enter 2018 to open the box. There is one key to the gate and one key to the shed. When leaving, put the keys back in the box and press the CLR button and 2018. The keys must lie flat.

Flower Committee (Judy Benson)

All the flowers have been planted. \$45 was expended. It is more cost effective to buy plants rather than seeds. Dried flowers have been planted in bed 4 of the Briar Patch. Boulder has a mix.

Perimeter Planting (Jim Neill)

Black-eyed Susans and Columbine have been planted. Blue Salvia and Black-eyed Susans have been planted at the entrance to Briar Patch.

Herbs

Marcia will take care of the herbs.

Children's Garden (Valerie Vickers)

No children attended the last scheduled planting. There was a discussion regarding the best time for Children's Garden activities. With the input of parents in the room, it was decided to hold all children's garden activities on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. Members may bring friends to Children's Garden activities.

Mike Gorman will add pavers and rails for the hose. Larry will add the requested irrigation. Val reminded members that she is still collecting rocks.

Laurie suggested members may want to organize communal workdays among themselves and that someone may want to take the lead in organizing.

Composting rules were discussed. The compost is currently overwhelmed with rye grass and includes more soil than compost. If weeds haven't gone to seed, they can be put in the compost. Larry Pflum suggested open burning. Mike Gorman will donate a trash can for the weeds.

Engineering (Larry Pflum)

Bunny fencing is complete. Laurie thanked the "Bucket Brigade" for stepping in to water. The irrigation is complete in Boulder and the timer in the main box will be programmed. The irrigation

in Briar Patch will be running by Saturday. Irrigation will run two hours each day to start and will change pending needs.

Mark recommended implementing the message board to communicate when plants have been watered. The bulletin board will be removed since it is not being used. The chalkboard will be moved up to facilitate this communication.

Myatt has been asked to remove and dispose of the Eucalyptus. We are waiting to hear back regarding this request.

Mike requested funds for a permanent trellis to support four rows of tomatoes, beans, and other climbing plants in Boulder Park. Four rolls of 50 ft. wire at \$36 and fifteen 8 inch poles are needed for a total of \$275. This is a one-time expense. ***A motion was made to approve \$275 for trellis materials. The motion was approved.***

Laurie reminded members that the club inherited a large carryover from last year. As a result, the gardens need more attention, and one-time expenses have been necessary.

Potatoes should be ready at the end of July.

Mark needs three members to help eradicate the weeds. Mike would like help with the composting.

Providing opportunities for students to receive community service hours by working in the garden was discussed. Activities must be pre-approved by high school administration. Margaret shared that she will be moving to Briar Chapel soon and that she currently manages 40 Duke students and oversees their community service credits. Club members will consider working with one to two student interns if school requirements can be realistically addressed and if their parents are club members and willing to provide oversight. Given the lack of resources and liability insurance, the Club is not in a position to engage the student intern project beyond this level.

Earth Day (Valerie Vickers)

Val thanked the volunteers who helped during Earth Day activities. Liz will provide a sign for next year. In the future, small seedlings may be used.

Paz Farm (Laurie)

Laurie shared that the tour to Paz Farms was very informative. She shared that Paz Farm needs help picking strawberries on Friday morning and selling them for \$5 a quart. Several members agreed to help. Sale will be at the clubhouse at 3:00 on Friday. Members decided that this would be a community service to Paz Farm and no money would be accepted from the proceeds of the sale.

BOCCE Ball Event on May 19 at 5:00 p.m. (Stacey Donelan)

Eleven to thirteen members have signed up. Bring chairs and a beverage. Rick Morang ordered new Bocce balls. They must be signed out from the clubhouse. Landscapers will weed the courts before the event.

New Garden (Liz Rolison)

A meeting was arranged with Garretson Browne and Selina Day. New sites were suggested to accommodate current garden expansion. Garden Club representatives were asked to prepare and submit a plan.

Dan Taylor's July Workshop

The workshop will focus on pickling.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.