

Hansberry Garden and Nature Center
Board Meeting
Minutes
April 22, 2017

Present: Vicki Mehl, Claudia Ginanni, Leonard Jones, Keisa Thompson, Becky Mendel, Brandon Lee Coleman, Dennis Barnebey, Lakesha Ferguson

1. Minutes read and approved with corrections: Claudia will add total funds in accounts (Savings and Checking) to the minutes.
2. Treasurers Report
 - a. Leonard and Keisa need to finalize the last details to completely isolate Kelly Green from HGNC funds and reconcile PayPal receipts.
 - b. March balances: Money Market: 16,354.95
 - c. Still working out reimbursement from Wally Moyers' office for mistaken charges to QuickBooks accounts. Keisa will send Caroline, Wally's assistant, the amount owed to the garden.
 - d. Water bill refund: HGNC receives two bills each month (@\$15 each), since the properties are two separate addresses. HGNC received credits from PWD
 - e. New member interested in being on Finance Committee (Anna Hoover)
 - f. Budget Vigilance: Keisa and Leonard will review expenses in relation to budget and make them available at the next meeting.
3. City Harvest
 - a. PHS plant starts are in the garden; all beds planted except for tomato bed.
 - b. Salt hay deliver likely this coming Friday. Adam Hill, of City Harvest, will call Leonard to set up a date if HGNC is able to get salt hay. Adam told Leonard that HGNC's City Harvest committee declined salt hay for this year.
4. Maintenance
 - a. Hoses: Becky reported that at the far end of garden the hose has little pressure. (Filter? Twisted hose?) Brandon will review the hose situation.
 - b. Compost is now off the easement space
 - c. Chris installed a latch on the side gate
 - d. Brandon reported that we would burn the excess wood in the garden at the next workday.
 - e. Brandon will place a knob on the LFL and install the LFL sign that is currently in the shed.
 - f. Estimates for Tree Removal, from All Green Tree:
 - i. Gingko: \$2800
 - ii. Maple (pruning): \$800
 - iii. **Motion Approved: Have Gingko removed at the quoted price**
 1. Brandon will discuss with Matt Molene (All Green) the cost expense vs. long-term savings between pruning vs. removing the Maple tree.
 - g. The greenhouse cannot be built until the Gingko tree is removed.
 - h. The light transom over the shed needs to be repaired
 - i. Brandon will research solar lights to install on the shed

- j. Task Sign Up Form:
 - i. Vicki will create a binder full of sign up options using the online sign up form prepared by Brandon. Claudia will post this sign-up form online. Form will include a column for hours worked. Claudia will develop a post to members explaining the procedure. Leonard will draft an email and send it to the members outlining these new steps. Brandon will keep track of member attendance at workdays with a sign in sheet. Brandon or Vicki will inform members at the workdays of the new volunteer hour tracking procedure. Vicki will send monthly reminders to the whole membership.
 - ii. Workdays are the third Saturday of the month from 1PM-3PM

5. Membership

- a. Vicki distributed list of members including contact info and committee preferences, though not yet complete.
- b. One member has asked for clarification about statement of liability in the membership agreement, holding other members “harmless” for injuries sustained. Vicki has referred the question to attorney, Tom Witt. No response yet. HGNC will hold the members’ place until the end of the month since the member is reluctant to sign the agreement as written.
- c. One bed being held pending renewal of a long-time member, but will not be held past the end of the month.
- d. Bed D1 not productive due to excessive shade. Propose: Turn herb bed to align with other beds, and add 1 or 2 more beds in the center area. Vicki to develop proposal for next meeting.
- e. Membership events: Vicki wants to meet with interested new members to plan events.
 - i. Beer night TBD (Vicki)
 - ii. Potlucks: Combine with another fun activity (movie? bon fire?) 5 PM
 - 1. May 21st
 - 2. June 25th
 - 3. July 30th
 - 4. August 27th
 - 5. Sept 24th

6. Communications

- a. An anonymous account hacked the website and posted junk information. Leonard deleted the account. As of now, the only users with access to the website are Leonard, Claudia, and Vicki.
- b. Claudia sent multiple calendar entries and press release to advertise for the Plant Sale
- c. Dennis will email out Board approved minutes to the membership.

7. Plant Sale

- a. May 13th from 10AM – 2PM
- b. May 6th from 1PM – 3PM
- c. Cherron ordering usual items

- d. Dennis sent out an email with dates/times for members to sign up to volunteer. He has received no responses so far.
 - e. Lakesha volunteered to organize and staff the Bake Sale, in Kathy Miller's absence. She will send out an email to the membership asking for donations. Leonard will send her a contact sheet for the membership so she can contact members individually.
 - f. Educational component: Leonard asked that someone with experience with native plants to answer questions and lead a discussion on their benefits. Becky will ask Chris Mendel if he is available to do so.
8. Farm Stand
- a. Lakesha proposed setting up the Farm Stand solely at the upcoming Germantown Farmers Market, which starts on June 6. A volunteer will be needed to staff the market on Wednesdays, from 3PM – 7PM

Next Meeting: May 20th 1PM – 3PM Location TBD

- review goals of committees and over-all HGNC goals.