

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 17, 2018

### HANSBERRY GARDEN & NATURE CENTER

Present: Vicki Mehl, Claudia Ginanni, Keisa Thompson, Chris Mendel, Becky Mendel, Kathy Miller

Place: Home of Vicki Mehl.

Chair: Vicki Mehl

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Minutes of the January 28, 2018 Board Meeting: The minutes were read and discussed, and there was an addition of the decision to give Leonard Jones a Hydro Flask and Lunch Kit in appreciation of his service. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

#### Presidents' Report (Claudia)

- We accepted GLEC's offer of using 3 grow lights in their "greenhouse," and Vicki and Claudia installed them and added chains to lower them. They filled germination trays with compost from the garden, ordered heating mats for them, and brought them home and planted them with vegetable seeds. Claudia ordered covers, and Janet Peterman has seedlings to transfer into the trays. More volunteers are needed to water the plants at GLEC—so far, Vicki, Claudia, Janet, and maybe Dave and Lakesha. In mid-March plants can be moved to our greenhouse, and other plants may be rooted there too. Becky will help care for plants in the greenhouse, and other volunteers are needed. So far we have vegetable plants, but members will be asked to split bulbs, roots and house plants to add to the plant sale.
- Vicki and Claudia went to Citizens Bank with Keisa to be established as signers for our accounts. This should be finalized by February 21.

#### Treasurer's Report (Keisa)

- Keisa sent Board members a listing of HGNC's 2017 expenses, and separate summaries for Kelly Green and LUMP expenses and income.
- We need to file tax form 990 -- Keisa will forward the needed information to Wally Moyer.
- Claudia asked if date of receipt of donations can be added, and Keisa said she can enter the dates as accrual. She'll talk to Wally about it.
- Keisa transferred PayPal funds to our account. Claudia is sending thank-you letters to donors.
- Bank balances today: \$11,718.00 in checking, \$16,080 in Money Market (LUMP and Kelly Green).
- We underestimated the length of the grotto seating area being built by Ramon Toledo, and he was paid an extra \$1302.00 for materials. There is \$1449.00 left to pay on completion (\$3500.0 paid previously).
- Claudia will give Keisa a design for a customized report by February 21.
- The mysterious \$80.00 FreshDirect expense is unresolved, but no further charges have occurred.

#### Landscape/Maintenance Committee (Chris)

- Chris requested \$2000.00 for the Landscape/Maintenance budget for 2018.
- The greenhouse has a new base and is stabilized, and Chris and Vicki will make the prototype for shelving in the next two weeks. Kathy will order the greenhouse temperature and anchor kits.
- Chris called Palram to replace the greenhouse parts under warranty, but they have resisted doing so. The Mine (formerly ATG, from whom we purchased the greenhouse) agreed to pay for shipping. We discussed how to handle this and agreed Chris will ask to speak to a supervisor, and if Palram won't pay, we'll just foot the \$36.00 ourselves.
- We discussed water run-off in the grotto, weed prevention, and plantings. We agreed to ask Ramon to grade the main area, table the idea of a swale, and to install black plastic over all of the soil, including the seating tiers, to try to solarize it and prevent weeds. Chris said he has stakes we can use and will

check the thickness of plastic needed.

- We could ask for a grant from Weavers Way for materials for our solar structure—Claudia will write the grant request with Vicki's assistance, due March 9.

#### Communications Committee (Claudia)

- Claudia said that because facebook has changed its algorithms to favor friends and family over businesses and other pages, we need to encourage members to share on facebook about HGNC.
- Website: Claudia put Board minutes on the website and will add agendas. All members can go to the website and click on 'Membership,' then 'Online Resources for Members' for this information. Chris's name and brief biography will be added as Landscape/Maintenance Chair. He will ask for a co-chair at the Spring Gathering.

#### Fundraising

We will apply for a Weavers Way grant.

#### LUMP Committee (Kathy)

- We discussed the possibility of applying for the Weavers Way grant to pay for materials for the new compost bins. Kathy presented pricing for the original design, 4"x4" cedar posts and 1"x4" pine siding: \$417 (all cedar would be \$787). Bins would be 4' high, 3 bins each 5'x5'. Vicki brought up other possibilities such as bottles or cement blocks. Since the LUMP Committee has not yet studied all the possibilities, Vicki agreed to design and price out the two options she mentioned, and others will be invited to contribute their ideas as well.
- The wood pile needs to be cleared away to make room for piles of soil and compost bins. Chris said we should reject PHS's offer of soil this year and will let Dave Schogel know, as they usually call him.
- Martha Anez designed a 12' x 8' pergola for the grotto on which we can put solar panels and also use as a stage area for performers. She has asked Ramon Toledo for a price estimate for our consideration.
- Rob Smith has agreed to help design and install our solar energy system, starting with the two solar panels that were donated to us.
- We discussed the importance of covering the grotto area with black plastic in March to have the best chance of resisting weeds. Chris suggested garden members could possibly do it after the Spring Gathering on March 17 (5 people could do it in 2-3 hours). Kathy agreed to buy the plastic by then.

#### Kelly Green

Dennis is working hard on getting community and school members involved.

#### Membership (Vicki)

- There is new wording in our Membership Agreement, and Vicki is hoping to get garden members more involved. Claudia and Chris will make a task list before the Spring Gathering so people can sign up to help.
- Vicki said that Heifer International has sets of reusable flatware with a case that garden members could bring to events to reduce waste. They could be door prizes at the Spring Gathering but cost \$15.00, so she will research less expensive ones. Selling travel mugs was vetoed because they're ubiquitous.
- Claudia will follow up with Cherron about Leonard's gift.

#### City Harvest (Becky)

Janet Peterman is signing us up as growers again this year.

Plant Sale on May 9, 2018

- We could buy smaller plants and grow them in our greenhouse to save money.
- Claudia will ask HGNC members to donate plants and will ask Dennis to find volunteers (Germantown Friends? Kelly School?) to help them dig up and divide plants. Native plants are preferred. April 28 may be a good date.
- Quantity of plants needed needs to be determined.
- We will sell cut flowers as well as plants.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.