



ARTS & GARDEN BOARD

Arts & Garden Board Minutes Meeting January 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine Horowitz, Pam Haxton, Deborah Hecht, Susan Warrow, Bonnie Nowakowski, Norine Zimmer

CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Tara Pieron

CITY COMMISSION LIAISON PRESENT: Jeff Jenks

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessica Blake, Richard Halprin, Marci Bykat, Cori Starr

PUBLIC PRESENT: Claire Galed

Introductions were made and new board members were welcomed.

Program updates:

Ideas for the board for 2021 were discussed; one idea from our last meeting is to try to increase participation in the scarecrow contest this fall by having residents display them in a central place (Scotia Park, other parks, near the school, etc.) rather in front of their homes. The board had also discussed having a scarecrow-building workshop in September at a location to be determined, depending on the Covid situation.

Much discussion was held about the gardens in the City:

- The board, as well as some volunteers, planted hostas and other plants at Statue Park last year, but there has been no consistency with watering them. It was suggested that the board make up a schedule with areas that need to be watered or weeded in the parks. Susan Warrow suggested that the board use Sign-Up Genius in order for volunteers to sign up for specific tasks daily/weekly/monthly. Jeff Jenks said that the board may be able to get a grant for an automated watering system in Statue Park. Claire Galed stated that there is no electricity in that park. Elaine Horowitz suggested asking the surrounding neighbors to volunteer to help water Statue Park.
- Bonnie Nowakowski asked if there was anyone who took care of the plantings around the Library. She had noticed that it needed attention and planted some perennials there last year.

Pam Haxton stated that she didn't know if there had ever been anyone who had adopted that garden area in the past.

- Helaine Zack is the new Adopt-A-Garden coordinator for the City, replacing Pam Haxton.
- There was a lot of discussion about the "natural" native plant garden at Mary Kay Davis Park. It is one of the first things that people see when entering the City from Woodward, and it has become overgrown. Pam is not sure that the person who had originally taken care of it is still maintaining it since she had not communicated with Pam when she was in charge of the Adopt-A-Garden program for quite some time. There has been discussion about salvaging the rocks and plants from that garden and plowing it under.
- Tara Pieron asked who made the decision to remove a garden in a park. The board is not sure if it is the Parks Director's decision or simply up to the board.
- Discussion was held about putting guidelines in place for the volunteers to follow.
- Bonnie suggested that we have an outline of what is planted in each garden, since volunteers who take over an existing garden might not know what the plants are and would be afraid to pull out the wrong thing when weeding.
- Jeff suggested that signs or pictures identifying the flowers in each garden would be helpful and informative to residents who visit and walk by the garden areas.
- There was discussion about how there does not seem to be a "plan" from the City of Huntington Woods for the gardens within the city. Jeff said that traditionally, the board has acted as the "planner." Claire informed board members that, many years ago there weren't any gardens in the City and so gardens were finally established, with resident volunteers planting and maintaining them. Huntington Woods has never done any plantings like other cities who have Parks Departments to do planting and maintenance.
- Norine Zimmer said that she believes we should make an effort to be environmentally conscious, especially when it comes to watering.
- The board discussed visiting the gardens in the Spring and making a plan (including costs). Pam said that we could ask organizations, such as the Men's Club, for funding. Susan asked if we could possibly have a GoFundMe for fundraising. Tara will ask City administration if there are any issues with having a GoFundMe.

Pam said that last year we had discussed purchasing white lights to help brighten up the City in the winter months. She had discussed this with Rocco from the DPW and will contact him again about purchasing and putting up the lights next winter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.