



SHELTON COMMUNITY GARDENS COMMITTEE

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Meeting Minutes, Monday, February 10, 2020

Present: Sharna Kozak, Patty VanSickle, Teresa Gallagher, Theresa Syc.

Absent: Mary King, Allison Menendez

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Sharna Kozak.

1. Meeting Minutes: Theresa Syc made a motion to approve the minutes for October 28, 2019. Seconded by Patty VanSickle. All were in favor.

2. Membership Issues: Ann Singletary is dropping out and will not be involved with the Community Garden going forward.

3. 2020 Rules Revision: Committee members discussed several potential rule changes. There was a bean moratorium at Shelton Lakes in 2019. Teresa Gallagher suggested allowing people to plant beans in 2020 and see what happens. If the moratorium worked, then there should be significantly fewer bean beetles in 2020 and then the same strategy could be applied for squash bugs in 2021. **Teresa Gallagher made a motion to make the following updates to the Garden Rules for 2020: The planting delay for beans and plants in the squash family will be June 13 at Long Hill and June 20 at Shelton Lakes, and the rules will clarify that Garden Captains or their designees will be allowed to apply herbicide to the fence line if needed. Seconded by Patty VanSickle. All were in favor.**

4. 2020 Registration: Sharna Kozak reported that registration packets were ready to be sent out as soon as the 2020 rules were revised. There will be an additional note to a few gardeners at Long Hill who did not complete their three hours of garden service in 2019 telling them they need to make up those hours in 2020 or they may not be eligible for a plot in 2021. Teresa Gallagher noted that if someone has an issue preventing them from completing their hours one year, like a broken arm or other health issue, that's not a problem, but there are a few gardeners that rarely do their share and this is unfair to the other gardeners.

5. Shelton Lakes Garden: Sharna Kozak reported that a beekeeper has expressed interest in setting up hives near the garden. No one had any objections. Bee stings should not be an issue since the gardens are already full of bees. Teresa Gallagher asked that the hives be placed away from the entrance into the woods where there are trails.

6. Long Hill Garden: Teresa Gallagher reported that the north side of the deer fence was updated with work parties in the fall. The old wire rabbit fence was replaced due to rusted holes in the

fencing, and the bottom of the plastic deer fence was removed at that time. This should make it much easier to weed the fence line and reduce the need for herbicide. If there are no problems with this section of fence moving forward, the strategy can be applied for other sections of fencing in the fall.

7. Nells Rock Corner Gardens: Sharna Kozak worked with Parks & Rec staff to reduce the size of the main bed and dig up most of the perennials that had become too aggressive. She is planning on planting Cosmos in the spring and asking the gardeners who missed their garden service hours last year to help out.

8. Eklund Garden: No updates

9. Next Meeting: Sharna Kozak will talk to Allison Menendez about getting a guest speaker lined up for the March meeting, which will also be a seed exchange.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Meeting minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher.