

Burr Gardens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes October 10, 2013

Meeting Opened

Present

Jennifer Downing, Laura Fasano, Jeanne Finlay, Ellen Gould

Meeting called to order: Chairman Laura Fasano called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved approval of August minutes to next meeting.

Chairman's Report

Laura Fasano introduced and welcomed Jennifer Downing to the committee. She explained that our meetings are open to the public.

Laura informed us that, regretfully, most of the transplanted material did not survive the summer heat wave. This spring, any planting will have to be done earlier.

The tree and shrub clearing around the Homestead foundation has been completed, restoring the landscape to its mid-1800's look with no objections from the public. The newly planted sod survived.

Grounds Report

Laura reported that she met with Joe Michelangelo (DPW), Kevin Fox (DPW Grounds), Mike Jehle (Fairfield History Museum), Ellen Gould (Historic District Commission), Ken Placko (Tree Warden), Vinny (Olivers), and Patsy (Burr Homestead Bookings) the first week in October, to discuss a solution to keep cars off the lawn. There was great concern for the safety of the copper beech roots and the freshly planted sod. **Ken Placko** suggested closing off the driveway to keep all cars out. **Ellen Gould** pointed out that one driveway has an existing gate that is not the original and does not conform to the building esthetics.

Joe Michelangelo will design and price matching gates. **Anastasio Fencing** will provide a quote for the gates. **Patsy** will monitor the locking of the gates and open them for appropriate vendors. There will be two Handicapped Parking spaces on the street and Patsy will also monitor gate openings for handicap access. There will be signage on gates (No Parking) and on the street (Handicap Parking).

The dumpster will be screened by shrubs.

The committee discussed clearing away the mulched area behind the Homestead where tents are placed for events, and replacing it with grass or blue stone. **Laura will call Mike Jehle** to see if he has a preference for Blue Stone over grass and to see if the rental budget would be responsible for the renovation, or BGAC. Jim Gerrity of Oliver's advised that it would take approximately eighteen inches of soil turning. That and the seeding would be

less expensive than the blue stone. Laura feels the first priority on her agenda, as Chairman is this back area of the Homestead. **Laura will speak with Kevin Fox** to get advice for best time to seed or sod. Looking to spring to begin this renovation.

Finally, the committee discussed a temporary means of keeping parking off the grounds during the Enchanted Castle week and the Christmas Tree Festival. Ellen Gould stepped out and spoke with Joe Michelangelo during the meeting for suggestions and he is in favor of using freestanding moveable gates like those in gated communities to slow traffic to block the entrance and exit driveways of the Burr Homestead. The committee agreed that this possibility should be looked into.

Fund Raising

Laura contacted Attorney Ervin, Trustee of the Sullivan Memorial Fund. At this time he is not interested in supporting BGAC. Mike Jehle had also approached Attorney Ervin. For the record, **Ellen Gould removed herself from this portion of the meeting due to conflict of interest.**

Laura announced that the PayPal account is up and running and ready to be used. **Lisa Claire and Ellen Gould are working to add it to the web page.**

The family of Lorraine Kowalsky wants a memorial in her honor. They are earmarking donations to BGAC/Town of Fairfield. **Ellen Gould proposed the idea of Memorial Bricks** to be laid in the floor of the Tea House. This could be used as a potential fundraiser for BGAC as well.

Christmas Tree Festival: BGAC will participate in the 2014 Festival by running the Quilt Raffle. **Jennifer Downing will Chair the raffle.** She has experience in this area. She suggested that a sub committee be formed. **Jeanne Finlay will contact Ballet Academy East** Director, Julia Dubno to cover the legalities and details of their raffle. More discussion will take place at the next meeting regarding raffle prizes.

Old Business

Jeanne Finlay reminded the committee that Juliana Stirling from OPRAA had invited BGAC to have an information/Fund Raising Booth at the October 20th Pumpkin Carving Fest to be held at St. Paul's Nursery School. **Jeanne will call Juliana to thank OPRAA for the invitation** and see if we can extend that invitation to next year.

New Business

Jeanne Finlay will email committee members about moving the BGAC meetings to the third Thursday of each month.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Finlay