

Burr Gardens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes December 12, 2013

Meeting Opened

Present

Jennifer Downing, Laura Fasano, Jeanne Finlay, Ellen Gould, Lisa Clair (guest)

Meeting called to order: Chairman Laura Fasano called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ellen Gould made a motion to approve the October minutes, Laura Fasano seconded the motion, the vote was 4-0-0. There was not a quorum of members who were at the August meeting so the vote for August minutes was moved to the January 2014 meeting.

Chairman's Report

Laura Fasano mentioned that we are looking to grow the committee and have 2 posts open. Lisa Callahan has been invited, and is considering taking the post. **Jeannie Finlay** will reach out to Lisa to answer any questions and see if she is still interested. The need for someone with strong PR and fundraising skills was discussed. The committee brainstormed other ideas of who could be invited. Another man would be a nice way to round out the group.

Laura informed us that, regretfully, Paypal rejected our "not for profit" status. **Laura Fasano** is working on re-instating it.

The funding for the Lorraine Kowalsky Memorial Bench was lost in the mail and only received by Laura recently, so the payment had been stopped. Laura returned the check and for now, the idea of a memorial has been tabled.

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. **Temporary Gates** have been put in place, but no one is respecting them and just moving them at will. **Joe Michelangelo** will be invited to a meeting early in the New Year to join in brainstorming better ways to keep traffic and parking off the grounds.

Olivers Nursery is slated to replant the grass in the Spring.

Ellen Gould offered to look into a painter who would be able to power wash the roof of the Pagoda.

Fund Raising

Discussion regarding new photos of the Homestead to be taken in spring so a new mailing can be sent out regarding the Wedding.

April would be a good month to approach the History Museum and Mofly Media to plan an agenda for summer PR for fundraising for the new plantings and the Wedding.

Ellen Gould and Lisa Clair will set a date in January to finish the BGAC website and with a link and Paypal information.

Discussion regarding emailing fundraising appeal and perhaps a Facebook Evite for the Wedding. A subcommittee of techies would help to facilitate this.

Also, reaching out to the other great public gardens in the Tri-State area to see how they raise funds would be a smart idea. **Jenn Downing** will look into this. She also believes we need to make the Homestead and the Gardens all one entity.

Lisa Clair thought it would be a great idea to get Bill Lee back on board and pick his brains about how to put this whole piece together.

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. **Jeanne Finlay** will be in touch with Lisa Clair for specific historical dates and begin designing the Burr Homestead Cross Stich for the raffle.

Old Business

New Business

Meet with the Fairfield Garden Club for long range planning and funds. We will request \$5,000.00 from Fairfield Garden Club and \$5,000.00 from Sasqua Garden Club.

Daffodils will be planted on the hill of the grounds in the fall of 2014 to bloom the spring of 2015 for the Flower Festivals 350th anniversary.