



Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2022

Present: Jackie Herbster, Denise Kelly, Joanna Kloster, Judi Lloyd, Chris Organ, Steve Sarg, Ellen Serra, Dee Smith and Mary Smolinski

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm by Ms. Smith.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: All members received and reviewed the October 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Lloyd made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ms. Kelly. The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Report: All members received a copy of the October Liaison/Council Report.

Financial Report: Ms. Smith presented the financial report.

Garden Update: Ms. Smith reported that Fall/Winter crops are doing well except for the radishes, turnips and rutabagas. Research needs to be done to ascertain why these crops are growing mostly above ground. The Green Team harvested the sweet potatoes (192 lbs.) and the peanuts. The sweet potatoes have cured and are in the greenhouse. The peanuts were strung and hung in the greenhouse and are currently curing. They will be ready to strip on November 16th. The volunteer papaya trees have approximately 12 papayas and hopefully be ripening soon. Mr. Sarg did some research and reported that it normally takes approximately 8 years for papaya trees to bear fruit. Mr. Sarg also dug up approximately 4 of the trees for over-wintering. Ms. Kelly reported that the bees are doing great. The hives have received a mite treatment. The bees are storing nectar, pollen and honey. She will inspect the hives again and will get them ready for the Winter. Ms. Smith reported that only 67 Monarchs were released this year. The Green Team will be once again planting asclepias seeds in the milk jugs in February. Ms. Smith reported that approximately 11 to 13 Green Team members have attended the last two work sessions, along with the sponsor attending the last work session. Regarding Spring/Summer planting, Ms. Smith would like to order seeds from a different company than last year. The seeds didn't germinate and had to be planted several times. Along with the Summer/Spring crops that the garden normally plants, it was suggested that carrots be planted. After discussion, a garden workday has been scheduled for Saturday, November 19th at 9:00 am to prepare the garden for the winter.

Old Business: Mr. Organ prepared a handout regarding the installation of the solar system in the greenhouse. Ms. Smith will contact Craven County regarding the permitting process.

New Business: Ms. Smith reported that she and Ms. Maurer met with the Outreach Coordinator from Interfaith Refugee Ministries ("IRM"), Amanda Norwood. Ms. Norwood advised that its clientele has changed and she will inform the garden as to the types of vegetables this clientele would like to see donated. IRM is also doing an article for its newsletter about RBCOG. Over the last 9 years, the garden has donated approximately 2,400 pounds of produce to IRM. RBCOG has been approached by Carolina Nature Coalition ("CNC") about doing a presentation to its members about the garden. Ms. Smolinski and Ms. Kelly have volunteered to update the presentation given to the River Bend Garden Club in order to prepare a presentation to CNC. Ms. Smith and Ms. Lloyd indicated that they have received inquiries about future workshops. After discussion, several items emerged as potential topics for workshops, i.e., Roundtable Discussion, Vegetable Gardening, Bees, Apples, Container Gardening and Butterflies.

There being no further business, Ms. Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Ms. Lloyd. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Submitted by,

Jackie Herbster, Secretary