

## HCC Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2021

**Attendees:** Anne Learn-Sharpe, Angelica Tang, Susan Antler, Shannon Stephens

**Regrets:** Paula Hughes, Steph McCann

**Staff:** Elizabeth Davis, Aimee Powell, Jason Coleman

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-Introductions from Jason and the committee

### Garden Locations

JC -From our walk in LeClaire, there were some issues regarding options of watering. We will need to get creative and look at options. Vandalism is also a problem in the parks, worried about ATV and dirt bikes coming through the parks, which may ruin the garden. The water source is the main issue, how we are going to manage this issue from the parks side?

ALS – Possible to drive into the parking lot if you have a key to the gate, could arrange keyed access?

JC- I would like to promise a staff member, but we are short on staff and have already maximized our resources. Giving HCC a key is an option.

ALS- We could drive in containers of water and water from watering cans to begin with, as long as we can get close to the garden.

JC-How frequent would the watering be required?

SS- Some interest in developing a plug based smaller garden in spring. Larger in the fall with a seed mix, which would need an inch a week. If there is a drought, we will need more water brought in. The seed mix with cover mix ensures there is a seed bank still in soil to germinate. A small garden would make it manageable to bring water in by car in buckets, then we could get something established this spring.

ALS –Would a garden around 4 x 10 ft. work?

SS – Yes, you could target the water to be right on the plant. The first year is most important to prevent drought.

SS– It is reasonable to drive in enough water to water once a week?

ALS – Is comfortable committing to once-a-week watering of the garden.

SA – Rich in organic matter soil would provide drought assurance.

SS -Topsoil and mulch helps with getting it though first year and moisture retention.

### Garden Location

ALS - Location by the path that goes by the river, or up by the fence by the parking lot at the beginning of LeClair park. Could add larger rocks to deter people to ride over it on ATVs.

-Decided on area beside the fence at the entrance of LeClair Park.

### Webinar Update

-Webinar date decided for: March 25th at 7:00 pm for one hour

-ED and AP will administer the meeting

SA– Could record in advance and have it available at the time of the meeting.

SS- Would like to do live and take questions as they come, be more interactive that way.

AT – Who is our target audience? Students, working from home? Which group of people do we want to be part of the webinar?

ALS- Anyone who is interested at all.

AP -MYFM currently has a discount on advertising on the radio, interested in that avenue? 25 messages for \$350.00 would run Monday – Friday for the next four weeks.

SA– Could use social media like Facebook to target the areas here, we usually get a lot of hits on Facebook for \$10.00. We didn't have any luck with radio for the Utopia Hall. Facebook can reach a specific geographic area and interests, and then they give you a time frame and how many people it will reach.

AT – What is the cost of the garden? How are we spending that money? Do we have a specific budget?

ALS- We could spend a bit of money on advertising.

SS – NVCA would help to promote. Could also look at local media which has community events.

AP –The Township Facebook and Twitter, Consent Agenda for Council would be available to the committee. We could also ask if we could put it in our signature line. The Angus BIA electronic sign would also be an option.

AT- Shannon how long will the presentation be?

SS – Presentation will be 20 minutes on how to create different garden styles, Solarizing, plug planting, farmers larger scale, to promote pollinators for agriculture. I will talk about cooler native plants in the seed mix. It will be brief, give people an idea for a range in small back yard to 100-acre field for vegetable crop pollinator. Leave 10 minutes for questions, and time to talk about the committee.

-This will be an RSVP event – email ED to ask to be included.

ALS – Alliston Herald is an option. They promote local stories and might be interested in an article about the project.

AT- There is also a section for Community Events in The Herald.

### **Tasks Delegated:**

ED – BIA sign, notice for Township social media, blurb about registration, create flyer and put a notice on the paper Susan gave us to put on Facebook, capacity for zoom and recording for people to view later.

SS – Content for webinar – Will send short description of what the presentation will be about.

AP- Will email Mayor about speaking about the presentation.

SA – Provide a high-level project plan for immediate deliverables to get to the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>

-Lady bug costume to be photographed with ALS granddaughter

PH - Connection through library, to the high school for promotion

ALS -Reach out newspapers.

### **Plants Chosen**

ALS- We are working with a dry, full sun, sandy location. We could put together a spring, mid-summer, fall and then run them by SS. Email list of what plants you are interested in to SS.

### **Project Name Voting**

Decided – Essa's Flutter Buzz Patch

**Other Business**

ALS- Mulch and wood chips are available at County.

JC- Public Works and Parks and Rec will assist, will need quantity and time frame.

ALS – Keep cardboard from home for the garden, or we could ask supermarkets?

**Planting date** to be decided at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting is March 18th at 5:00 pm