

BCMGVA Botanical Garden Committee Meeting

January 27, 2016

Meeting called to order at 9:00 by Maryann Horgan . In attendance were Debbie Duffy, Cathie Cook, Amanda Kiel, Marianne Bell, Ellie Bierman, Craig Farland, Linda Swanson, Mary Dixon, Michelle Cousineau.

Committee reviewed 3 documents and agreed to start using the protocols. We will learn as we go and modify what needs tweaking:- How to Request creating a new garden- Guidelines to aid in planning a new garden- Protocol for working in the Botanical Garden

The budget for the year was reviewed to help people understand how each project may not get funding or only partial funding - \$1350 for plants; \$600 for mulch for perennial beds; \$1000 for Michelle; \$2000 for spring cleanup and \$4500 of new phase of irrigation. Hopefully Mark Blevins can contribute to a project from his budget.

**** committee agreed to use county compost for 2-3" layer and top with "the good stuff" = Michelle will order and mulch will get spread in March when greens are popping up in perennial beds.**

Committee walked BG and reviewed where new irrigation will be laid. General agreement on short and long term gardens - Asian theme around water features; shady woodland needs understory plants; River Birch shady; grass collection on back of berm; circular drive garden will be "edible landscape teaching garden" and herbs; children's garden location still debated. Established rose, perennial and Live Oak gardens will continue to be improved.

There is great need for communication between gardeners. Michelle Cousineau as Curator should be the point person for coordination. For example, grasses not wanted in Entry Garden should be offered to Grass Collection team; no plants should be tossed without checking to see where they might logically fit.

Small spaces, not on master plan can provide artistic gardening opportunities for volunteers. Ex. Jenny Newton would like to plant annuals in front of 'fort'. It is suggested that gardeners check with inventory of plants being propagated for BG (ex. coleus) and check with Curator about their appropriateness for the location. Maybe Michelle's budget could cover a small start up cost?

The 2015 Master Gardener Class planned big and went way over the budget Sam gave them. They came assuming they could get the extra funds from the BGC. We reviewed the plans for the Entry Way garden and made many suggestions for them to think about in their design. We also pointed out the ground covers on their plan (creeping jenny & Ajuga) were everywhere and free for the taking. They should also check into propagation class for possible donations. One of the shrubs they want is sitting in rose garden and they could have it. Lots of suggestions they were unaware of using to get the cost down.

Committee did not elect a voting team of 5-7 members, nor a chairman or secretary. CPP Plantsman's Garden list handed out but no time to discuss ID signs.