

Chesapeake Arboretum Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2020

4pm at the Chesapeake Arboretum

Board Members Present:

Richard Pippin
Linda Bradley
Phil Johnson
Deb Pearson
Dee Zagurski

PR&T Staff Present:

Mike Barber, Director
Kevin Kaul, Parks Manager
Lynn Jordan, Public Information
Meghan DeSanto, Secretary

Board Members Absent:

Roxanne Stonecypher
Michelli Booker

Approval of Minutes – No changes were made to the November minutes.

No Citizens present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

R. Pippin reviewed the process for the Committees and their leaders, in that everyone should conduct research for their respective Committee, gather input from Committee members, and present their findings during the board meetings.

Programs/Operations: Nothing to report.

City Council: Nothing to report.

Invasives: The invasives are still there, and the volunteer groups (Boy Scouts, Jr. Marines) have been doing a great job.

Volunteers: D. Pearson would like to expand the volunteer pool. She has been looking at the potential of Girl Scout groups. K. Kaul suggested reaching out to Navy Chaplains. They may have or know of groups who could volunteer with us. Military volunteer groups could make a lot of headway in different ways than youth groups.

Historical: Nothing to report.

Capital/Projects/Trails: K. Kaul said that engineers are working with the department to provide ideas for the house. The house will have an 1800s feel. Additional meetings are scheduled to discuss design and renovation details, for which there is some funding available.

Unfinished Business:

By-Laws: P. Johnson made a motion to approve the amended By-Laws. D. Zagurski seconded the motion. The amended By-Laws were approved and the motion passed.

Standard Operating Procedures: The Board reviewed the redline version of the SOP. The word 'Advisory' has been removed throughout. The meeting schedule has been updated. The biggest changes are to the committees, which have been restructured. The Chesapeake Arboretum, Inc., no longer exists; therefore, that committee has been removed. The amendment and approval dates have been updated to January 27, 2020.

D. Pearson made a motion to approve the SOP. L. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Further discussion on the SOP regarding education took place. P. Johnson pointed out that education has been an important part of the Arboretum in the past and should be included in the SOP. R. Pippin acknowledged this should be listed under Programs/Operations. M. Barber suggested adding the verbiage "promote educational opportunities".

D. Pearson moved to amend the previous motion and approve adding this verbiage to 3A of the SOP. L. Bailey seconded this motion. The amended SOP was approved and the motion passed. The SOP will be revised by the Secretary and sent to the Board.

Staff Reports:

K. Kaul reported that basic maintenance of the trails for the winter has taken place. Volunteers have been a great help on the trails. The leak in the porch roof has been patched. A squirrel has chewed through the roof twice; this will be addressed by a professional.

Bridge C will be completed once contractors are finished with the NWRP project. This should be ready in late spring.

Meetings with Kimley Horn and restoration professionals have taken place regarding the farmhouse. Finalizing the scope for the project is the first step. The next steps are to receive quotes and figure out the priority order of work to be done on the house (windows, the foundation, etc.).

M. Barber shared some background regarding requests from many groups for an arborist. Hiring an arborist involves many factors including: determining what type of position is created (arborist vs. urban forester vs. landscape architect) because the job responsibilities vary; which City departments this would involve (PRT, Public Works, Development and Permits); and having the staff, resources and a plan to achieve a productive outcome. M. Barber feels we currently have a basic system in place to

maintain and care for trees. It is a collaborative effort involving staff and outside professionals. A PRT landscape architect has been requested for the July 2021 budget year because PRT is being given more landscape priorities around the city, for example at libraries, city borders and neighborhood entryways. M. Barber also mentioned the Adopt-A-Spot/Adopt-A-Park program has been modified in coordination with Public Works, and the sponsorship model has been updated. New sponsors are being sought out as well.

New Business: None.

Comments:

L. Bradley is still interested in considering goats to handle invasives. R. Pippin recommended compiling more research to present in the board meeting. M. Barber explained how such research helps to advise the city on these topics. That research could include examples of other cities that use goats to handle invasives. This can be presented to the Board so an informed formal decision can be made by the City.

P. Johnson emphasized the importance of education and brought up that there is not a lot of space at the Arboretum to conduct educational programs, particularly for larger groups. R. Pippin agreed and recommended additional research. M. Barber shared that Nature Academy classes have been going well and are providing educational services, including some activities for homeschool youth.

D. Zagurski reported that there was a recent weekend incident in which two boys with swords were trying to chop down a tree and start a fire. In spite of being told to stop they did not, and the police did not come after being called (via non-emergency). Kevin offered his help for future situations, if there is a problem just call his work cell phone.

D. Pearson confirmed that she will contact Kevin when she finds groups that can volunteer. He will arrange for materials to use and staff to assist.

R. Pippin reiterated the committee structure and process. Committee heads can complete research on their own and present it during a meeting. Members should call him if something needs to be added to the agenda.

The next meeting will be March 23, 2020 at 4 pm at the Chesapeake Arboretum.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Minutes submitted by Meghan DeSanto.