

Heights Grows! Mtg Notes 2/13/21
10:00 AM via Zoom

In attendance:

Cyndy Mullineaux
Adrienne Evans
Kathy Blumenstein
Colleen Gross
Maureen Joos
Tracey Miller
Karen Joy Schultz
Tom Ottoson
Leslie Rayser-new member
Mary Jo Woodward
Miraim Mlynarski
Michelle Emery
Ryan Staudenmeyer - new
Joanna Ghayad
Dave McCollum

1. Call to Meeting and Review of Agenda items- Cyndy Mullineaux

2. Sponsor a Planter

- Plans to distribute flyer and post on borough website
- Launch by **March**
- Town can choose sponsored by/memory of, planters will have plaques (looking into prices from ArtSign)
- Heights Grows! Will maintain the planting, mulching, etc of planters to maintain consistency
- Estimated total cost \$200 for annual sponsorship
- Link to sponsor will be on the borough website and payment can be through the drop box

3. Planter Maintenance

- Over winter, planters were drained and are being hand watered when dry. Therefore, they are not self watering in below freezing temps or in the early few weeks after a new planting. Until plants are rooted HG will need to top water for a few weeks every time the planters are updated.
- Plan to acquire 330 gallon tank in order to fill and top off the planters for this spring. **Cyndy to follow up** with Mayor Houck about obtaining the tank from the CHFD & the plan for DPW to maintain water levels in the self watering tanks during the growing season.

4. Spring Planter Design

- In **March**, planters can be replanted with 5 inch pansies, approximate cost \$2 each
- **Project team** will need to review and finalize plans & coordination. Email to follow.

5. Spring Sparkle and Shine Day-

- Our group will utilize our manpower to offer to wash windows of downtown business
Possible target date of April 17th
- We will donate our time, manpower, and supplies. The goal is to support downtown businesses as community outreach.
- Question proposed: could we coordinate a plant sale at the same time? Answer: we will hope to run a plant sale, in a location central to town.

6. PTG/HG Collaboration

- The PTG will be partnering with Heights Grows for our March litter patrols, allowing families and children to take part in our town beautification efforts
- Heights Grows! Will provide supplies, gloves, and bags
- Target dates 3/13 or 3/20 with rain dates
- With additional volunteers, we will look to expand to areas beyond the 500-600 block of Station Ave to areas such as Hoff's Park, the Cannons, Dell, area parks, etc
- Additional PTG collaborations may include Educational Outreach and Enrichment activities
- **Looking to have a lead person to take over the dates and management**
- **Anyone interested in being the active lead for this activity, please contact Cyndy.**

7. Green Space

- We are awaiting further information about a possible green space behind Jane's Tea House and next to Perfect Press owned by a former Councilmember.
- The space holds many possibilities for pop up events, off Station Ave events, etc. We would like to see how and if Height Grows could be a good fit.

8. Weeding Patrol

- This is how Heights Grows started, and one of our most successful projects that keeps our downtown looking beautiful and kept clean
- Looking to have a lead person to take over the dates and management
- Target date to begin regular patrols - April
- **Anyone interested in being the active lead for this activity, please contact Cyndy.**

9. Litter Patrol

- Next Date will be Saturday, February 20th at 11:00 AM
- **March** - see PTG collab above
- **April** - will fold into Weeding Patrol during growing season

10. Future Plans-

- Rake A Thon - fall
- Bulb planting at the railroad tracks -fall
- Water- there is a water source near the fountain, public works has looked into the repair in order to allow us a water access point. **Cyndy will follow up.**
- 'Environmental Education' ideas- Dave McCollum
 1. Water Sustainability and Conservation- possible addition of information to our tab on the borough website and our social media. Link information to target

groups such as the PTG, HHS, and the local Scouts to get involvement in local Environmental Stewardship

2. Energy Efficiency for Residents- possibly offer surveys, assessments, and ideas to assist residents in their homes. Search out opportunities through organizations and businesses such as PSE&G.
 3. Sick Trees- Possible partnership with the Shade Tree Commission to get volunteers to walk the town and record trees that need removal. Use of a rating scale and locations to plant new trees.
 4. Update from Councilman Tom Ottoson: Town has received a \$5500 grant for use for remediation. Looking into the possibility of a well to be utilized at Devon Ave fields for irrigation. A \$25,000 grant has been awarded and will be used at Hoff's Park for improvements to the trail system. There is a Shade Tree committee meeting on 2/24/21. They are adding trees in the upcoming year in addition to the 45 trees they planted in 2020. They would also like to add trees to the West Side canopy. They are currently running a sponsorship program for new trees.
12. Fundraising
- Current balance: \$995.92 remaining from funds raised from Rake a Thon, merchandise and donations from HIP and Anthony's
 - Contact Jigna regarding merchandise still available
 - Clean Community Micro grants may be available- we are looking for a volunteer that has experience with grants.
13. Social Media
- We are looking for ideas to increase our media presence and the content we are posting.
 - The Heights Report needs articles for upcoming issues. **Deadline for March 1st** could include Sponsor a Planter and the May issue could focus on environmental education. **Please reach out if you'd like to volunteer to write something.**
14. Membership Team
- Does anyone have experience with Dropbox or Google groups? We would like to make a centralized location for our logo to be used on all our flyers, current membership list, minutes, and project information.
 - PDF's of comments from our recent survey will be emailed out with recent updates.
15. Next meeting Date: April 10, 2021 at 10 AM at the Dell (weather permitting)

Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:16 AM by Dave McCollum, Seconded by Adrienne Evans