

Special meeting of Palmer Arboretum Committee

March 25, 2021. 6:00 pm

Present: Paquette, Krofina, White, Dziedzic. Guests; Elaine Turner , Aaron Bourque

Discussion of "Celebrate Spring" . Program:

Elaine suggested creating a mural for the Arboretum where a muralist would outline the work and visitors could paint in the designated colors. Professional artists would correct the outlines. It would be painted on fabric that would be attached to wooden panels and supported by posts sunk in the ground. The mural would represent figures, vegetation and any significant features of the Arboretum. It would be sealed to be weather proof and any vandalism could be cleaned. The cost is \$50/square foot and she feels there are Banks and others who might be interested in sponsoring this. The Committee felt that this was a terrific project but there is not enough time to get approval from The Hill Historic Society and get the funding before May 22. This is an exciting project for next year maybe combined with the sculpture exhibition that Jessie had suggested from WA. We need to cultivate a sponsor whose name could go on the mural. Plan B will involve artists with easels painting in the Arboretum and there will be supplies for visitors to try and emulate them. The Committee felt Plan B was more realistic for this year. Aaron will bring a bird caller and his expertise and help visitors identify birds by sight and call. He will meet with Andy and walk the Arboretum. The thought is that he would set up around the edges of the Arboretum and those interested in birding will join him there.

Jean Pillo has volunteered to present the Rain Garden and Andy will invite her to join a work day so that she can install the signs for the plants in this area.

Linda Kaplan will be stationed at the shade garden so that she can present the individual plants. There will be two tables in the parking area for activities and craft projects; painting bird feeders, scavenger hunt and letter boxing.

One table will handle registration, (name, email and snail mail addresses) , information about donations. Map of activity areas.

Philippa, Andy and Chad will be spaced around the tree areas to guide visitors with the tree identification and stories.

There will be primulas to plant in the swamp area with trowels, gloves and sanitizing wipes.

Publicity:

Sara already has fliers printed up! Yeah! She will meet with Philippa and Andy to give them the fliers to distribute. Some will be left with Jessie who will give them to the houses on the Hill, Sweet Evs. and the PO. Andy will take them to the library in West Woodstock. and check with Roseland Park. Sara will be asked to notify the Public Schools so that they can send home the information on line and she will post it on social media and Woodstock Proud.

Philippa will send the data to LGV and contact Gary O for a spot on his morning show the week before the event.

Andy will get a banner printed that will advertise the event on 169.

Supplies

Philippa will bring two tables and chairs and Andy will bring one table.

Andy and Philippa will bring trowels and Philippa will collect the primulas

Andy and Jessie will review the bird feeders and pick up the paints, brushes, dowels ,string and seeds. Andy will revise and develop the Scavenger hunt sheets. Philippa will repair the letter boxes.

Everyone is saving gallon and half gallon plastic jugs.

Philippa will bring paper towels, sanitizer towels, hand spray and bleach spray and masks

Organizers: Philippa will talk with Lions Club and Andy with Gardeners Club for volunteers for both the work days and May 22.

Work dates: April 28, 10-12: May 5,10-12: May 8,9-2: May 19, 10-12.

Sara will choose what days the WA students can volunteer.Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

The recoding of the meeting can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/pC2QR5v2WBE>