

## Palmer Arboretum Minutes

October 14, 2021

1. Present: Philippa Paquette, Sara Dziedzic, Jessie White, Absent, Chad Hyde

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

2, No citizen participation

3. Reviewed minutes of 9/9/ 2021. Sara reached out to Ann Richards at TEEG but received no reply. She will be attending a meeting of the Youth Advisory Board at TEEG and will raise the option for volunteers at the Arboretum to complete Community service hours. She also contacted Pat Boyd. She will check in with the STRIDE program to see if they are continuing their interest in creating something like a sundial for the Arboretum.

Jessie contacted Rectory School but they are not sending students off campus yet.

Philippa posted on Woodstock Proud with no volunteers responding. She also contacted Marc Moseley from the Lions Club but his members have been so busy with other fund raisers that he does not feel like asking them yet to volunteer at the Arboretum. Philippa will ask him if they could come for a leaf raking session later in the fall on November 20 or 21.

Sara will check with the "tree buyer" when they come to her parents' home and see if they would be interested in the fallen oak.

24 members of the Field Hockey Team from WA came and weeded for an hour with their coach . Laura Kennedy brought her English class and Susan Lovegreen still plans on doing some water quality testing at the Arboretum.

Philippa took a forest hike at Goodwin with Tom Wessels (forest guru) and asked him about the ash trees and the beech trees. He recommended NOT cutting down any tree until it is dead in case it is the one with the genetic resistance for whatever is threatening that species. The beech trees are currently attacked by a borer that allows an invasive fungus to enter the holes and then native fungus also attaches and the trees die. He also recommended that we avoid any American chestnut/ Chinese chestnut crosses as the latter is an understory tree and the former a massive giant and who knows what the cross will be. Any chestnut under 16" diameter when the blight hit is sending up stump shoots and although they are currently dying out at about ten feet they may begin to develop resistance. Give them time....1000 years! Do we have that much time?!!

5. Volunteer hours were recorded. Philippa has weeded most of Jessie's bank and planted some more grasses. The coral bark maple has been planted and Philippa is watering it as needed.

6. Philippa has led three LGV walks and the last one will be this Saturday. She has kept a list of the participants so we can include them in our donor request. Sara will be free to join the last walk on Saturday.

7. Future work dates: October 22. 2:30

October 28. 2:30

November 20 or 21 Check with Sean Saucier for participation by WA sports teams and Prep. sports teams. Check with Lions' Club for volunteers... Massive leaf rake!

9. Philippa will talk with Anthony about the Winter Festival at Roseland Park. We can offer a bird feeder workshop but we really want people to visit, value and invest in the Arboretum so this may not be worth the time and effort.

10. The donor request letter should go out next month. Philippa will email out a basic letter and look for input. The goal will be \$1,000. Nancy Adams will be contacted for her "pretty paper" app.

Philippa will list the LGV walkers and their addresses and the committee will generate their own ideas for donors and address and send out the letters at the next meeting.