

October 10, 2013

Library Landscape Committee Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Kyra Wagner, Angie Otteson, Megan Murphy

STAFF: Amy Gordon

VISITOR: Brenda Adams

PENDING BUSINESS:

Megan Murphy of the Library People's Garden would like to brainstorm with the Friends and the Library for ideas on garden design. The People's Garden's budget needs to spend before June 30, 2014. The strawberries are doing well in spite of the lupine. The raspberries are looking great. There was discussion about adding fruit trees. Concerns include the ugliness of the fencing required to keep moose browsing at a minimum, and the work involved in maintaining fruit trees. After input from Kyra and Brenda, honeyberries are now in consideration to add to the garden instead of fruit trees because honeyberries are edible and not interesting to moose.

The idea of gravelling a drainage ditch in the garden to double as a walkway was discussed, and it was agreed that it would be better to weed whip the grass in the drainage area instead of gravelling it. Angie agreed that the City will whip that area when maintaining the rest of the library grounds. Angie also agreed that the City will pull alders along the path this fall and in the spring.

Megan would like all lupine removed from the People's Gardens. Brenda Adams will attend the November meeting and walk through the area with Megan to identify which lupine can be transplanted from this garden to other library gardens in the spring.

Megan would like for Steve to design a logo for the People's Garden. Approval from the library is necessary to continue with this idea. There are 2 signs to be installed at the both ends of the path. Megan would like the logo to be included in the sign design.

Megan noticed problems with the Book Walk sign sticks breaking and said that the People's Garden is willing to purchase supplies to support longevity of that project.

NEW BUSINESS (A):

Brenda Adams presented a pictorial history of the new library's gardens from post-construction to current day.

Her number one wish from the City/Library is that they keep mowing the grass. This keeps the dandelions and clover to a manageable level.

The Central bed is now a combination of native species and refined plants in a similar hue. Some of the plants did not survive the last harsh winter and have been replaced with more of the surviving plant types.

The North Meadow used to host 17 invasive plant species. With dedicated effort, most of these invasive plants have been eliminated and the remaining few are greatly reduced in number.

In summary – with careful planning and implementation, all of the gardens are coming into their own. However, Brenda was careful to note that she has been “Gardening to Budget” not “Gardening to Perfection”.

Some of the plants are full enough that the library should consider dividing them; either to add more around the current gardens or to sell as a fundraiser.

Brenda's Priority List for the Library Gardens:

1) Continue mowing. It keeps weeds at bay, and keeps paths from getting trod into the grass.

2) Improve turnout on volunteer days. The library will save money if more volunteers show up. Change the name if necessary. Get the word out. Early May is an important time to get a jump on the weeds. Look for a time that doesn't conflict with Shore Bird Festival or City Clean Up Day. Advertise on the radio – both KBBI and Dave Becker. She has had luck getting coverage in the papers by submitting ready-to-print articles and pictures.

3) Additional Signage. She thinks the North Meadow sign is very well done. It succinctly explains the goal of that garden. More signage would be great.

NEW BUSINESS (B):

The next two meetings were scheduled for November 21, 2013 and Dec 19, 2013 in the Conference Room at the Homer Public Library. As Ann Dixon and Naomi Klouda are not present, meeting times were not set for 2014.