

## PPSC Meeting Minutes for 03 February 2021

Members in attendance: Kristin Bianconi, Fran Thomforde, Kathy Proctor, John Bradley (Gloria Lewis absent)

The meeting convened at 1:10 PM. Masks and social distancing were observed.

The meeting minutes from 29 December 2021 were approved.

John noted that the interval between the previous meeting and this final approval of minutes was more than a month. To make that interval shorter John proposed that, going forward, the meeting minutes will be circulated to the PPSC members via email for review and approval. Minor edits will be made without re-review. Major edits will require a second round of review and approval. Approved minutes will be forwarded to Kara Hudgens for posting to the Garden Club website. The LLPG Committee and the GC Executive Committee will receive email notification of the posted minutes, and comments will be invited.

The PPSC agreed that the GC Executive Committee has oversight of work being done under the auspices of the GC, as noted in the modifications to PPSC operating rules #3, 5 and 7:

- **#3:** As becomes necessary, the PPSC will recommend removal of plants from the LLPG, subject to approval by the LLPG Committee **and GC Executive Committee (EC)**.
- **#5:** The fate of plants being removed or reduced will be determined by the PPSC in consultation with the LLPG Committee **and GCEC**. Potential dispositions include: offering to Lakemoor Hills GC members; offering to another GC/organization; plant sale; compost.
- **#7:** PPSC will develop a schedule for LLPG “work days” and propose it to the LLPG Committee **and GCEC** for approval.

Fran provided a written draft of the **History of LLPG**. The PPSC agreed with the approximate length and detail as well as the structure of the document. PPSC members are asked to provide Fran their comments for the version to be published on the GC website.

Kathy updated the PPSC that no progress has been made on the **map and plant list** since the previous meeting. Fran noted that she has found the original plant list for LLPG, and she will share that with Kathy and the PPSC.

Kathy showed the PPSC the progress made by the **website working group**, spearheaded by Kara Hudgens. The PPSC concurred with the direction being taken by the website working group. Website modifications will be periodically flagged to the attention of the PPSC, LLPG Committee and GCEC. At its most recent meeting the GCEC did not make a recommendation regarding the development of the GC website. It is the consensus of the PPSC that it should remain within the LHHA website, but recognize that is a GC-level discussion and decision.

**The work of the planting plan dyads for East Entrance (Fran/Gloria), Gathering Place (Kathy/Gloria), Meadow Edge (Kathy/Gloria) and Meadow (Kathy/Gloria) were presented. Members of the PPSC will**

*provide suggestions to the dyads for possible refinements/revisions. Notably these proposals included hardscape modifications, which must be proposed by the LLPG Committee to the GCEC.*

The PPSC was generally in agreement with the idea of flattening/grading a portion of the **Gathering Place** with installation of a permeable surface (which may evolve to a “hard” surface), inclusion of seating, and planting of shade-tolerant plants around the perimeter of the graded surface. The PPSC recognized that grading and hard surface installation may require discussion and permissions from Knox County. There was general agreement with the proposed trellis along the South Entrance paved path on the east side of the Gathering Place, but wanted to see specific proposals. A “naturalistic” appearance throughout the year is preferred. The installation of a trellis will also require discussion and approval at the LLPG Committee and GCEC level. Recommendation of LLPG hardscape changes should come from the LLPG Committee to the GCEC.

The PPSC agreed that removal of nandina, hosta, and liriope from the Gathering Place and lifting and potting of the evergreen azalea pending a new home can proceed.

Regarding the **East Entrance** proposal, which included consideration of a handrail for the large steps, there were many considerations but the dominant discussion point was aesthetics. It was noted that the South Entrance “ramp” of the paved path was designed to be ADA compliant. As noted above, hardscape proposals will come to the GCEC from the LLPG Committee. The concept of enhancing the edge of the drybed flanking the east side of the South Entrance paved path received favorable comments, and there was willingness to consider step-wise modification of the plantings flanking the large steps.

The PPSC favors completion of the sprigging of Vinca minor on the east bank, and is open to considering inclusion of other plants, eg small spring flowering bulbs such as snow crocus and Siberian squills, that might enhance the east bank. Options for specific plants for the edges and banks will be considered.

For the **Meadow Edge**, the concept of plantings around the birdbath stump was widely accepted, but might include the west as well as the east facing areas surrounding the stump. It was noted that access to the stump to refresh the birdbath water must be a consideration. There was concern about the soil depth and quality adjacent to the paved path in the rocky area. The naturalization of celandine poppies uphill from these rocky areas was favorably received.

The proposal to observe the current plant occupants of the **Meadow** was accepted, but with enhancements that could proceed this year. Taller perennials were discussed as possibly creating a “backdrop” for the Meadow, particularly at the interface with the Meadow Edge. Nearer to the road shorter perennials such as butterfly weed might be considered.

In advance of this PPSC meeting John circulated a PowerPoint depicting “**desired**” plants. This can/should be expanded to include those recommended by other PPSC members. Each PPSC member is asked to send John their list. John indicated that his first priority is to notify GC of the spring ephemerals being sought so they can mark their location in their gardens for digging and transplanting at the appropriate time, which is typically in the late spring – early summer (as these plants are going dormant). A request to the GC will need to be relayed via the GCEC.

In addition to requesting plants from GC members, there are other sources, including known gardens/gardeners who are not currently GC members, gardening organizations, and commercial nurseries. The PPSC members were asked to share their ideas with other PPSC members.

For **new business**, Kristin agreed to mark the Raingarden border and John agreed to cut that border.

John will reduce the Raingarden footprint of the Cherokee sedge and will divide the lifted plants for allocation within LLPG, eg at the north edge of the road, northeast paved path, and north drybed.

John will probe for potential locations of the three hose racks [near the spigot; near the east end of the north retaining wall/bench; near the cedars on the west edge of the paved path].

Kristin offered to selectively prune shrubs in LLPG and particularly the Raingarden. John offered to shape the witchhazels in the Raingarden. These actions were endorsed by the PPSC.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Submitted by John Bradley

PPSC chair