

## PPSC Meeting Minutes 03 March 2021

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

The meeting convened at 1:10PM with some members participating via Zoom.

The 03 February 2021 meeting minutes were approved “virtually” within a week of that meeting, and were posted on the Lakemoor Hills Homeowners’ Association (LHHA) Garden Club (GC) website.

The draft History of the Lakemoor Legacy Park and Garden (LLPG) was submitted by Fran Thomforde at the 03 February 2021 meeting, and barring substantive edits can be considered “final”.

No further progress has been made since 03 February 2021 regarding the map and plant list. It was agreed that these may follow the completion of the integrated planting plan proposal.

The GC Executive Committee (GCEC) has acknowledged the requests for commissioning statements for the LLPG Committee and the website working group, but they have not yet met and acted on these requests.

Revised planting plan proposals were reviewed for the Gathering Place, Meadow Edge, Meadow, and East Entrance.

**Gathering Place:** There was consensus agreement with: a) moving the lending library to parallel the entrance paved path; b) a trellis structure serving to screen the back of the lending library and the view of the Gathering Place area from the entrance paved path; c) outline an area to be graded/leveled that will include seating; d) define the edge of this “floor” with shade-tolerant plants of moderate size; e) cover the “floor” with a temporary material such as shredded mulch, with later consideration of a more permanent and hard surface. Regarding the choice of vines for the trellis, it was noted that the soil is very poor (ie gravel) and there is substantial shade and root competition, particularly from redbuds. It was previously agreed that the burning bushes at the upper (south) end of the entrance paved path may be removed. It was clarified that the four Osmanthus to the north of the rail fence are considered part of the Gathering Place area. It was previously agreed that the evergreen azalea behind (north) of the cypress will be removed. It was agreed that, while there are structured/formal elements of the Gathering Place area, it should have a natural character and integrate well into the remainder of the LLPG, and particularly the adjacent planting areas: South Entrance, Meadow Edge and East Entrance.

**Meadow Edge:** At the interface with the Gathering Place, some low-growing shrubs may help further define these areas, recognizing that the line of closely-planted dogwoods may limit the under-planting opportunity and plant choices. There was interest in shrubs such as oak-leafed hydrangea and Chinese paperbush, but recognition that there is not much space for them in this interface zone. To that point, the cypress may increasingly occupy space and restrict opportunities going forward. It was unanimously agreed that the area around the stump birdbath can benefit from irregular grouped plantings of 3-4 medium-height plants. Access to the birdbath will be facilitated by an interruption in the plantings on the downhill side. The current birdbath should be replaced with a broader lower version that fits well atop the stump, perhaps constructed from hypertufa. Downhill and north of the stump birdbath may be occupied by celandine poppies, and the rock area adjacent to the paved loop may host several types of small bulbs and other select perennials, perhaps including mountain krigia.

**Meadow:** It was previously agreed to observe the Meadow and identify what already resides in it. Patches of medium sized perennials may be planted near the interface with the West Woodland, and taller perennials, eg ironweed/vernonia, goatsbeard/aruncus, queen of the prairie/filipendula, may be planted uphill (west) of the dripline of the pawpaws and dogwoods that are at the west border of the Meadow Edge.

**East Entrance:** It was agreed that the carex flanking the large stone steps can be replaced by evergreen shrubs/shrubby perennials such as rosemary (at the upper end) and cinquefoil/potentilla or St. John's wort/hypericum (at the lower end). Planting of Vinca minor on the banks will be completed, and maintained as a "monoculture" until it has filled in, at which time additional plants may be considered. At the southeast end, adjacent to the drybed flanking the entrance paved path, flowering perennials, eg coreopsis verticillata, gaillardia, campanula carpatica, salvia, and a trailing low-growing flowering shrub, eg cotoneaster or deutzia, may be planted. Two beautyberries (callicarpa) may be planted in the flat area off the road between the chestnut oak/redbud (in the East Woodland area) and the further north of the two 'Nelly R Stevens' hollies that flank the top of the large stone steps. The two beautyberries/callicarpas can be taken from the Raingarden, leaving one large specimen at the south end of the Raingarden. There was discussion of also planting a low-growing evergreen shrub, eg one on each end of the callicarpas, with some preference for plum yew/Cephalotaxus harringtonia 'Plania'. Regarding the 'Nelly R Stevens' hollies, it was agreed that they can be allowed to grow to as much as 15' tall and 10' wide, and should be informally pruned to maintain a natural-appearing pyramidal shape.

**Fern and Rock Garden:** Kristin offered to provide a text description of the proposal that was previously documented as marked-up photographic images.

*The specific plant recommendations and other refinements to these planting plan proposals will be submitted following this 03 March 2021 meeting and will be appended to the approved meeting minutes. The dyad members are asked to submit their plant lists to John for inclusion in the future call to GC members for plant contributions.*

The PPSC agreed that the method of selecting plants will be group consensus, and will reserve the option of a more "formal" process on an as needed basis.

There will be a GC meeting and work day on 18 March 2021. The PPSC will share with the GC its progress towards a planting plan, its proposed call-out to the GC membership for plant contributions for the LLPG, and may specifically ask for input and approval regarding the grading of the "floor" in the Gathering Place. Kristin will notify the LLPG Committee of this in advance of 18 March 2021, which may take the form of a LLPG Committee meeting. Kristin will also generate an overall task list for the work day, including subdividing of the task list for work groups with relevant supervisors. There was discussion of using long-leaf pine straw as mulch in the Raingarden and the to-be-planted Vinca on the East Entrance bank. Kristin agreed to acquire the pine straw for the work day.

The galvanized steel plant labels Gloria offered previously may be delivered to Kristin or John so as to be available on the work day.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45PM.