

## Planting Plan Subgroup (PPSG) meeting 23 February 2022

Attendees: Kristin Bianconi, Gina Bond, John Bradley, Gloria Lewis, Kathy Proctor, Fran Thomforde

The meeting convened at 1:10 PM

### 1. Introductions

The continuing members (KB, JB, GL, FT) introduced themselves, as did the new (GB) and departing (KP) members. During the course of the meeting it was stated that the PPSG will change at least one but not more than two members each year to ensure continuity while remaining open to new participants and ideas.

### 2. Review of the operating principles of the PPSG as recorded in the 01Dec2020 PPSC meeting minutes

The operating principles were reviewed item-by-item. It was recommended that we add a statement to the effect of *"In March of each year the PPSG will produce an LLPG action plan for the year and an associated budget."* The PPSG also reviewed its objectives as recorded in the 01Dec2020 minutes. While some of the objectives have not yet been fully pursued the PPSG agreed that they remain relevant and appropriate and should be retained. Creation of a mechanism for receiving, recognizing and the targeting use of gifts, including the acquisition and installation of associated plants or hardware, is yet to be achieved. It was noted that LLPG has been offered gifts that could be used for Gathering Place benches and a recirculating water feature. Particularly the former should be acted upon expeditiously as the donors are anxious to complete the memorial contribution.

ACTION ITEM: KP will distill bench options and provide this information in a format that can be shared with the LLPG working group to determine their preference. This will be forwarded to the LLPG-WG

lead for distribution to the LLPG-WG. The responses will be fed back to KP.

### 3. Selection of PPSG lead (formerly referred to as chair)

The functions of the lead were discussed and it was agreed that it is most efficient to ask the lead to manage the scheduling, agenda and minutes of PPSG meetings, as well as lead the meetings. JB volunteered to continue as the lead for one more year.

### 4. Review of progress since the fall 2021 report, including the “hardscaping” projects

Further progress has been made since the fall 2021 report, particularly pertaining to hardscaping changes at the South Entrance and Gathering Place. A few plants were added as outlined in the fall 2021 report as “future plans”, eg addition of two deciduous azaleas behind the three in the East Woodland. The most striking shortfalls are the additions of sun, heat and drought tolerant perennials to the South Entrance (particularly at the east end) and the East Woodland (at the edge of the paved path). Abelianas were proposed for the South Entrance but the specific varieties have not been determined. Options include solid vs variegated leaf and larger vs more controlled growth habit. The vines proposed for the yet-to-be-erected 4’ fence include Clematis armandii and Carolina jessamine. KB has acquired two Clematis armandii and the Carolina jessamine is readily available, so the rate limiting step is getting the fence up. It was proposed that the vines can be interplanted, with the Carolina jessamine shifting to the west end and the Clematis armandii towards the east end of the South Entrance. It was noted that the wet ground makes setting the T-posts easier. It was also noted that postholes have been dug for positioning the little library back within the Gathering Place with its back to the paved entrance path. The overall height of the little library will be reduced by about 1’ when set in place. There was discussion of application of a compost top-dressing in the Raingarden. The rough estimate of 5 cubic

yards of “weed free” compost was suggested, and it was noted that it needs to be applied soon to avoid smothering the newly emerging spring perennials. If this cannot be achieved quickly it may need to be put off until late winter 2022-3. We discussed the possibility of the expense being supported by the Lakemoor Hills Resource Council as this is an improvement to the Raingarden soil and not “maintenance”. ACTION ITEMS: GB and KB will look into sources, quality, availability and cost of compost. JB will recruit assistance in getting the little library positioned and the fence up. Specific proposals are needed before moving forward on acquiring and planting the abelias.

5. Consideration of modifications to the fall 2021 planting proposals  
It was proposed that Hemerocallis be considered as one of the sun/heat/drought tolerant perennials for the South Entrance. It was agreed that we will need to see what has survived and proliferated before considering other additions. It was asked whether the PPSG would support planting of annuals to brighten up the South Entrance for the Dogwood Trail. Violas/pansies were mentioned as an option. ACTION ITEM: PPSG members will look for suitable annuals and report back.

6. Sourcing of plants, including good estimates of costs for plants that are to be acquired commercially  
In addition to the aforementioned sun/heat/drought tolerant perennials, many proposed spring ephemerals for the Woodlands are yet to be acquired, eg various dicentras and Virginia bluebells, as well as selected Meadow perennials favoring larger size and striking form, eg Filipendula rubra. There was further discussion about specific varieties of medium-height and spread junipers to flank the beautyberries atop the East Entrance rim and the low-growing for above the east bench. The latter are likely to be readily available at “big box store” nurseries.

ACTION ITEMS: We will consider how to effectuate donations of desired perennials from Garden Club members, with particular focus on spring ephemerals and certain sun/heat/drought tolerant perennials. PPSG members will further investigate the commercial availability of the junipers.

Adjourned at 3:00 PM

Submitted by John D Bradley  
PPSG lead