

Minutes of Meeting of “Roland Park Beautification and Garden Club Committee” (official name to be decided) October 8, 2008 at Louise Phipps Senft’s home, minutes submitted by Louise

Present: Maidie Podles, Ann Lundy, Valarie Perez-Schere, Louise Phipps Senft

Needs:

1. 14 Islands, 90% in need of care beyond mowing maintenance
2. 18 paths, same, mainly cut back and ivy removal
3. ___? Lanes
4. Requests of City re lighting, traffic/land
5. Requests of City re services for our taxes: mowing: snow removal
6. Educating residents

Existing Services: True Green contract through R&M, \$80K year for removing debris (50% of cost), mowing community space , clearing paths, keeping islands cut back

Existing Resources:

- \$14,000 raised by RPFoundation, not yet used
- R&M
- Landscape expertise in neighborhood
- Interested citizens
- RP political clout
- Talent for organizing and getting things done
- Other groups experiences and expertise: Guilford Garden Club, Roland Park Garden Club, the Little Garden Club, the Beatification Foundation of White Plains

Purpose:

To be a clearing house for beautification efforts and to educate, initiate and stimulate beautification efforts of all varieties in plantings, infrastructure, lighting, signage, in a way that maintains the character of Roland Park while celebrating the diversity of beauty

Projects and Initiatives Ideas:

- o Educate via events and the website and the RP newsletter
- o Have a wish list in the Newsletter and on website
- o Have a mechanism for residents who are interested in beatifying an area in Roland Park and provide guidance and resources for them to do so
- o Encourage residents to Adopt an Island
- o Provide Guidelines/application? For adopting an Island
- o Sponsor a Path walk to raise \$, and give some \$ back to Friends of Olmsted b/c use of their script
- o Sponsor a walk of the area where original vegetation is and understand more about why it is there and choices
- o Provide expertise for residents interested in planting
- o Sponsor plant swap or exchange

- Sponsor native plant sale
- Consider efforts to promote a roundabout at Cold Spring and Roland Avenue, join forces with RPCL Traffic Committee
- Give “Thank you for making a beautiful garden” postcard to homes we notice or others tell us about
- Encourage stewardship for taking care of property our own and helping others
- Sponsor lane clean up days
- Make all events fun
- Have events in front of Library and on Islands as a venue
- Hold a Think Spring Event in the Fall

Info for Education of Residents:

10 foot right of way for paths

Paths not always well marked

History of paths

Some varieties of plant are original

Importance of not planting on property line

Expected “quickness” and expansion of growth of some varieties, which quickly outgrow their space and become a burden rather than an enhancement

The importance of planting native plants that do well in Roland Park

TO DO’s

1. Need a volunteer to contact and network with existing Roland Park Garden Club and having that person on our committee in some way, or as a liaison
2. We need to come up with official name: ideas:

Beautification

Garden Club

Roland Park

Projects

Landscaping

Infrastructure

Paths, Islands

Group

Citizens committed to the beautification of Roland Park CCBRP

Fun

Little Beautification Committee

Roland Park Beautification

Tagline: dirt, ?? You work, we supply Your hands, our expertise; Native, native, native ☺

3. Do an Assessment of all Paths, Islands and Lanes (**Maidie**)
4. Find out Clyburn Plant sale date in April (**Ann**)
5. Create a wish list (**Ann**)

6. Make a proposal to RPCL Board for recognition of Club/committee and for initial \$200 for our kick off event **(Louise)** \$200 for 800 daffodil bulbs to be planted, donuts, fliers
7. Make contact with RPCL webmaster for creation of a link on website **(Louise)**
8. Pull off a kick off event on October 25 (9am-noon) on Longwood Road/Midvale Island for all RP residents, rain date October 26 (noon-3pm) **(All)**
9. Create a flier for this event for Oct 14 RPCL mtg and for Plat Reps to distribute **(Valarie)**
10. Create “ask me” flower nametags for us for event **(Valarie)**
11. Get copies of Plat maps and Path walk reproduced **(Valarie)**
12. Create draft handouts for event (to be circulated and reviewed by group at next meeting on October ___ and to post on RPCL website **(Valarie & Louise)**
 - Reason for Paths in Roland Park
 - Reason for Islands in Roland Park
 - Cycle of Native Plants schematic: native plants>bugs>birds>higher forms>quality of life
 - Criteria for Adopting an Island
 - Criteria for Adopting a Path
 - What to Do Once you have Adopted an Island
 - How to Host a Block Clean up of a Lane
 - Best Practices for Taking Care of an Island
 - Best Practices for Taking Care of a Lane
 - Post card for “Thank you for Beautifying Roland Park”

All the above drafts and to-do's will be finished for review by group by next meeting.

Lps

Next meeting October 16, 7:30pm Louise's house

Alternative date October 20. Look for your emails. Thanks.