

MINUTES OF THE HORTICULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE
Meeting held at Fellows Riverside Gardens, July 17, 2018

Present: Deby Clark, Doug Pezzuto, Monica Parkhurst, Pam Garver, Andrew Pratt and Ellen Speicher

Absent: Kelly Bowell and Janice Arch

Guest: Aaron Young

Meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes from the May 30, 2018 meeting were approved with two corrections.

Old Business:

Aaron Young was asked to report on the progress of arborist training for MetroParks staff. He reported that two Operations staff and four Golf staff have expressed interest in becoming certified arborists. At this time, four individuals have been approved to take the test. This will be done by the end of 2018. No hands-on training has been scheduled at this point. This training may be scheduled at a later date.

Andrew Pratt reported on the upcoming construction of the new High Tunnel. He informed the Committee that the goal is to have the building completed by Oct. 14. He is working with the contractor and utility companies. The contractor is High Tunnel Hoop Vision from Cleveland. Tables are being purchased from Greenhouse Supply Co. There will be a one large door similar to the original High Tunnel and also faucets at both ends of the structure. No automatic watering system is being considered at this time.

A concern was raised that the current air flow system in the original High Tunnel may be insufficient. Andrew Pratt reported that there is currently a louver with a malfunctioning motor. No changes in the airflow system are planned for the new High Tunnel.

Andrew Pratt also reported that the old plastic on the original High Tunnel will be replaced this fall.

It was discussed that the new Natural Resources Steward should be invited to attend a Horticulture Standing Committee meeting to discuss the English ivy and other invasive plant issues in the MetroParks.

The process of scheduling walk-throughs of MetroParks areas outside of our regular meetings was discussed. Aaron Young stated that if we are meeting at a location that is not handicap accessible or has no restroom facilities that this should be stated on the website and in the press release. The need to identify a minimum of two regular meetings at the beginning of each year was noted.

New Business:

The Horticulture Committee has been contacted by two members of the public inquiring about the poor condition of the roses in the Beeghly Rose Garden. Andrew Pratt informed the Committee that the roses have been cut back due to an infestation of rose midge. The recommendation was made by the Committee that regular fertilization and pesticide spraying programs must be followed to improve the health of the roses and prevent this type of insect infestation. The Committee requested copies of the pesticide application records for Fellows Riverside Gardens for the years 2017 & 2018. The Committee complimented the staff on the new Joanne Beeghly Rose Garden signage.

The Policy on Standing Committees was reviewed. The requirement of a December report to the Board was noted.

The next Horticulture Committee meeting will be held on Monday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Lanterman's Mill.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Ellen Speicher