

MINUTES OF THE HORTICULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE
Meeting held at Yellow Creek Park, May 30, 2018

Present: Deby Clark, Ellen Speicher, Doug Pezzuto, Kelly Bowell, Monica Parkhurst, and Janice Arch
Absent: Pam Garver and Andrew Pratt

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes from the April 12, 2018 meeting were approved with no additions or corrections.

Old Business:

At this time, the study of the pesticides and fertilizers used in the MetroParks is on hold. Kelly Bowell will contact the Environmental Standing Committee to see if this is an issue that they are looking into and whether they would like to work in collaboration with our committee.

The Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens have now donated \$25,000 to the MetroParks toward the construction of a second high tunnel. This new high tunnel will be built by the end of 2018. No other updates or progress has been reported.

The tear in the plastic of the original high tunnel has been repaired. The committee is concerned that all of the plastic covering this greenhouse is several years old and could easily sustain more tearing, especially during winter which could cause severe damage to the plants inside.

Doug Pezzuto examined the leaning tree on High Road which was causing concern. He recommends that the tree be left alone at this time as it is crotched up in another tree and would be dangerous to remove. The current staff does not have the experience to remove this tree, so this tree work will need to be contracted out.

Deby Clark has been informed by Lee Frey, Board President, that we are required to hold at least 2 regular meetings each year. Walk-throughs of park areas to observe horticultural issues are considered special meetings. These special meetings need to be publicized but are not official meetings; their purpose is for information gathering and no decisions can be made.

Kelly Bowell read the overview that she had prepared on the damage caused by English ivy in natural areas. There is a mature stand of English ivy along Old Furnace Road that she encouraged the committee to view.

It was reported that no mention of any arborist training was reported at the last MetroParks Board meeting.

New Business:

None

The next Horticulture Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 17 at 6 p.m. at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Submitted by Ellen Speicher