Public Gardens Committee

Chair: Linda Oskamp

Calendar: April-August : Garden cleanup,planting, and maintenance

August-September: Order Spring bulbs and plants

October-November: Plant Fall plants and Spring bulbs, prepare gardens for winter December: Holiday decorations at Belfast Library and Grove Cemetery

February-March: Dream of Spring and plan your gardens

Description of the Gardens: Belfast Free Library Gardens (Childrens; Miller St; HIgh St) \*\*\* Belfast Harbor Public Landing (Wharf planters and flag garden) \*\*\*

“Water Loo” Gardens

City Hall

Police Station upper garden

Police Station lower garden and pots

Post Office Square

Coast Guard

Margaret’s Point \*\*\*

Grove Cemetery \*\*\*

City Park Crabapple Allee \*\*\*\*

\*\*\* Gardens that need additional help

\*\*\*\* Group project

General Information:

**Budget Information:**

Each garden has a budget. The garden budget year is 1/1/2021- 12/31/2021. Specific garden budgets do not include soil/ mulch / equipment costs or Fall bulb purchases. Separate funds are designated for those costs. Gardeners make purchases for their gardens and submit a request for reimbursement using the form provided to Linda Oskamp. You must include a copy of your receipt with your reimbursement request. A paper copy of the reimbursement form is provided today and an email copy will be sent to you as well.

**Special Project Funds**: Sometimes additional funds are required to complete some needed maintenance and or/ additional shrubs/ trees to a garden. Special project funds can be requested to address this need. Special Project funds are not always available. Availability is dependent on the success of the income producing activities of the club.

**Tools and Equipment:** Hoses and watering cans are provided by the Garden Club. Please let

Linda Oskamp know if your hoses/ water cans, etc. need replacement. Water faucet keys will also be provided if you require one for use at your garden location. Please do not use pesticides ( herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc) in any of the gardens.

Gardeners use their own hand tools when working in the gardens.

**Purchasing Plants**: Several area companies offer discounts to members of the Garden Club and Public Gardeners. They are:

**Plants Unlimited**: Speak with Buck, Manager to receive 25 % off for plants that will be used in the public gardens.You can also purchase bonds that increase your purchasing power. e.g. $100 Bond has purchase power of $150

**EBS/ Hammond Lumber**: 10% off when you show Belfast Garden Card

**Aubuchon Hardware**: Belfast Garden Club is registered; all purchases by Garden Club members earn coupons that can be directed to the Garden Club Account;coupons can be used to be used for purchases of plants/ equipment for Public Gardens.

**Holmes**: donates plants for a memorial located at the Belfast Library Garden, Front St.

**Belfast Garden Club Plant Sale**: At the conclusion of the plants sale, you may choose as many plants as you can use at your Public Garden at no cost. The plant sale is scheduled for June 5th with a rain date of June 6th. Your help with preparing for the sale ( digging and potting plants; setting up) and assisting on the day of sale is greatly appreciated. Please contact Paula Smith, coordinator for the Plant Sale if you will be able to help with this important fundraising event for the Club.

**Working in the Gardens:**

Schedule: You and your coworkers can decide your schedule for when you will work in the garden. How often and when will depend on the needs of the garden. Many of the current gardeners work in their gardens on Wednesday mornings. We also try to schedule special project work (when we need a group of gardeners to help) on Wednesday mornings when possible.

Back up coverage: If you are in need of extra help or coverage due to vacation/illness, please contact Linda Oskamp. She will work with you to arrange coverage for your garden. A number of Garden Club members are available to help on a temporary basis.

Safety: Your safety and the safety of the community is very important. Please follow safe practices when working in your garden and alert Linda Oskamp, Paula Smith and Barbara Gage (Club President) of any unsafe or potentially unsafe conditions. Please review “How to Handle Liability Situations in the Belfast Garden Club” provided to you as a handout today and

provided as an email attachment. If you have any questions about how to report an unsafe condition or an incident, please contact Linda Oskamp, Chair or Barbara Gage, President. Disposal of leaves/ small branches/ plant debris: Biodegradable materials can be taken to the Grove Cemetery. The area to dispose of the materials is past the Maintenance Building. Please ask Steve Boguen, Grove Cemetery Supervisor/designee where to put the materials you have. He has several different piles and it is best to get direction from him until you are familiar with his system. Large branches and leaves may be picked up by the City during the Spring and Fall, if left by the curbside.

**Photographs of your gardens**: Please take photos of your gardens across the seasons. We use the photos on our website and Facebook page as a way of highlighting the work of our dedicated Public Gardeners and the service the Garden Club provides to the Belfast Community. Photos can be sent to Linda Oskamp and she will share with the individuals managing the website and Facebook page.

Thank you for your dedication to caring for the Public Gardens and sharing your knowledge and expertise. We look forward to working with you all. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Linda Oskamp Paula Smith

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