



Discovery Garden Park (DGP) Board Meeting Agenda

Date/Time: 8/11/2025 6:00 PM

Location: Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Board Room

A. Call to Order: *Please Silence All Cell Phones and Electronic Devices (Paul) 6:00 PM*

B. Attendees:

| Attendee Name | Title | Status |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Barbara Kolhaussen | Board Member | |
| Britt Lancaster | Board Member | |
| Cristy Hines | Board Member | |
| Josh Bare | Council Member - Advisor | |
| Kathy Mallard | Board Member | |
| Lottie Jackson- Kelly | Board Member | |
| Nicole Hooks | Board Member | |
| Paul Sumner | Board Member | |
| Prasanna Chodey | Board Member | |
| | | |

C. Approval of Minutes: *Minutes from 8/11/2025 Board Meeting prior-reviewed via email, motion to approve.*

D. Board Member(s) Applicant(s) Welcome & Engagement:

1. Andrew Tanko Introduction (2nd meeting)
2. Discussion with Applicant(s)

E. Citizen Input:

F. Treasurer's Report: Financial Statement/Balance/Revenues/Expenses (Kathy)

1. Financial Summary Report:

G. Board Updates:

1. Garden Membership Update:
 - a) Membership Renewal Status/Changes/Wait List Updates (Nicole)

H. Council Updates: (Josh)

I. Returning Agenda Items:

1. Norcross First Global Methodist Church pre-school program (Kathy)

a) New Updates (Kathy)

b) Background:

- Board Approved Motion to Proceed.
- Tour/walkthrough of the facility on 8/19 with Janine Kays, administrator of the pre-k program.
- There are 2 outdoor play areas and an outdoor space by the fence. Below are notes regarding possible projects for each space.
 - An outdoor play space for the older children (ages 2-4)
 - i. Currently there are zinnias in one corner that reseed and have been a great success and sunflowers in another corner that were planted from seed by the kids.
 - ii. Suggestion (keep both, possibly nestle one of the fairy gardens (Winter Event) amongst the zinnias so it can be visible/engaged with when the zinnias are no longer blooming
 - Expand/develop pollinator planting along the fence leveraging Hunter Rawls for sourcing/suggestions/advice (Spring Event)
 - Short term plant “sensory pots” for the kids to enjoy smell/touch experiences (Fall Event).
 - i. Needs: large plastic decorative pots, soil, plants (could mostly be sourced from DGP garden beds)
 - An outdoor play space for the younger children (ages 0-2)
 - i. Currently there are a few zinnias in one corner that are volunteers from above.
 - ii. Same suggestions as above. Keep zinnias, create second fairy garden (Winter Event), add other pollinators (Spring Event) & a sensory pot (Fall Event).
 - The outdoor space along/just outside the play space fence
 - i. There is a space outside the play space for the younger children that could potentially house the blueberry bushes (Fall Event). But it may be problematic to clear due to roots/debris from the bald cypress.
 - ii. Possibly plant small pots of lettuce/herbs or something else for the kids to take home? Need to think more about this.
 - Next Steps for Fall Event
 - i. Scheduling time for Britt to assess the outdoor spaces to refine potential sites for the blueberry bushes.
- Confirm possible dates for the Fall Event.
 - Pre-K operational hours: 9:30am-1:30pm Monday-Friday
 - September is wide open for the school (KM available after 9/25)

- Fall break is 10-9-10/13, so before or after those dates in October.
 - Considerations for Winter & Spring Events
 - Start gathering ideas/materials for Fairy Garden
 - Winter Event: Review calendars for mid-late January until mid-February
 - Spring Event: Review calendars for the end of April
 - i. KM will reach out to Hunter
2. DGP/ Paul Duke Stem HS Partnership (Barbara)
- a) August 28 Kick-off meeting briefing (Barbara, Nicole, Paul)
 - b) Request for student career pathway project ideas
 - Engineering
 - Mechatronics
 - Graphic Design
 - Film
 - Marketing
 - Computer Science
 - Cybersecurity
 - Game Design
 - Web Development
 - c) Students' project presentations November 19 (Time TBD)
 - d) Potential Ideas from August 11 DGP board meeting
 - Mayor Newton discussed bringing an International Farmers Market to Norcross (brick & mortar vs. weekend/weekday Farmers Market) as one way of dealing with Norcross being a food desert.
 - Discussion of how to utilize AI (Britt) for data collection/management of garden production/management/reporting to “shareholders”, ROI, can we engage Paul Duke for this? Specific ideas suggested by Britt:
 - a. Design and implement a centralized Garden Management App where members can communicate, reserve garden plots, check schedules/calendars, sign up volunteers, manage projects, report issues, collect data, track harvests and plan social media updates.
 - b. Update DGP Website
 - c. Create survey for existing members to gain insight on the state of the garden, areas for improvement, and other useful feedback.
 - d. Utilize tools for members to join and participate in monthly meetings remotely in the event they are unable to attend in person.
3. Oktoberfest Update (Barbara)
- a) Scheduled for Thursday, September 18 from 4-7pm
 - b) Oktoberfest theme
 - c) Norcross Garden Club board members invited



- d) DGP will provide meat (bratwurst, chicken sausage, rolls, toppings), water & ice
- e) All attendees asked to bring their own beverage & a side to share

4. Board Vision Workshop

- a) Scheduled for September 13, 11 am
- b) Location: Norcross Garden Club Cottage
- c) Themes:
 - Community Engagement
 - Outreach Communications
 - Education Ideas
 - Sub-Committees – Volunteer Gardeners

5. Bulletin Board discussion (Nicole)

- a) Who manages it currently?
- b) How can we best keep it up to date and better utilize it as a source of information for the gardeners and community at large?

6. Garden Bed Alumni remaining in email distribution list (Nicole)

J. New Agenda Items:

K. Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed By This Agenda:

L. Adjourn Motion:

M. Signed By: Paul Sumner, Chairperson

N. Attested: Shayla Royal, Deputy City Clerk