



**Discovery Garden Park (DGP)
Board Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: 9/8/2025 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	Present
Britt Lancaster	Board Member	Absent
Cristy Hines	Board Member	Present
Josh Bare	Council Member - Advisor	Present
Kathy Mallard	Board Member	Present
Lottie Jackson- Kelly	Board Member	Absent
Nicole Hooks	Board Member	Present
Paul Sumner	Board Member	Present
Prasanna Chodey	Board Member	Present

C. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 8/11/2025 Board Meeting prior-reviewed via email, motion to approve by Paul then seconded by Barbara.

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

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

E. Citizen Input:

1. None

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

1. Financial Summary Report: Kathy provided a summary of the Treasurer’s Report that revealed no financial changes since the August Board Meeting. Only one expense was incurred for \$21.15 for the purchase of yard bags.
 - a) August revenue of \$0
 - b) Expenses recognized in August of \$21.15
 - c) Outstanding balance in August was \$0
 - d) Beginning balance as of August 1 was \$23,296
 - e) Ending balance as of August 31 was \$23,296

G. Board Updates:

1. Garden Membership Update: (Nicole)
 - a) Membership Renewal Status/Changes/Wait List Updates: Currently there are 8 on the waiting list. There are 15 pending renewals. Two have elected not to renew. As of now there have been two emails sent requesting renewals. A third reminder will be sent to renters.

H. Council Updates: (Josh)

1. City Council or the DDA are not yet aware of the brick-and-mortar farmers' market vision conveyed by the Mayor during our last Board meeting potentially addressing food deserts in Norcross.

I. Returning Agenda Items:

1. Paul Duke Stem High School (PDSHS)
 - a) The August 28th kickoff meeting was discussed by Nicole, Paul and Barbara. Nicole, Barbara and Paul presented to approximately 250 ninth grade students at PDSHS. They were all equally impressed by the students, the school and its resources along with the faculty.
 - b) Dr. Carly Scholz, STEM Coordinator and Instructional Coach, and Dennise Peagler, Assistant Principal (PDSHS) were in attendance.
 - c) PDSHS discussed their designation as a state certified “project-based learning” school. They discussed their excitement with the new partnership with DGP. They want to work with an organization that has their “hands in the ground”.
 - d) The focus for the 9th graders is Sustainability. Carly and Dennise mentioned the wide range of topics that they have for the other grades. The 10th grade is Well-Being; 11th grade is Accessibility and the 12th grade is Advocacy. All ninth graders were posed the same question: “How might we design a sustainable food generation system that enhances nutrition and contributes to solving food insecurity”?
 - e) There will be a student project showcase currently scheduled for November 19th. PDSHS discussed how impressive the students are with their range of languages, proficiency and presentation skills.
 - f) Paul discussed the need for a website as DGP currently is presenting itself with a Facebook page. It’s been approved by DGP to create it. PDSHS offered to engage the students with this project and use their skills to our benefit. Britt had mentioned in the previous meeting incorporating AI. One example given was “How do I grow watermelons? She mentioned other ideas such as addressing bugs, posting a calendar and allowing citizens to attend the meetings virtually.
 - g) Recommended obtaining city AI use guidance.
 - h) Different ways to grow in the community without a yard such as hydroponics, potted plants, a window box and a garden plot were also suggested. PDSHS discussed the different class specialties in the career pathways that could

create value. In particular, they gave the examples of graphic design and film. They offered assistance in creating and posting videos on the website.

- i) Showing how to grow a garden was suggested including different ideas as composting, worms and caring for the soil. The overarching theme continued to be the food desert and how to address it.
- j) Other possibilities were discussed. One was to provide a mobile market to residences. It could easily be compared to a food truck. The program could require a commitment to a certain number of boxes per month. Even local vendors could bring their products. The Paul Duke staff offered to take this idea to their teachers and allow the students to use their creativity.
- k) Request for student career pathway project ideas in:
 - a. Engineering
 - b. Mechatronics
 - c. Graphic Design
 - d. Film
 - e. Marketing
 - f. Computer Science
 - g. Cybersecurity
 - h. Game Design
 - i. Web Development

2. Norcross First Global Methodist Church preschool program (Kathy)

a) New Updates (Kathy)

Kathy took a tour with Janine Kays, director. She saw their current projects. They want to continue to expand/develop planting for pollinators. Kathy spoke of the different options we could offer including blueberry bushes. In addition, there will be sensory pots for the students such as lamb's ears and lemon balm among others. Britt is to be leading the project for the blueberry bushes. There is a need for large plastic, decorative pots. Paul has agreed to see if he has any to donate. Motion to approve the Fall project by Prasanna, seconded by Barbara with unanimous approval.

- b) The Fall project will be followed by one for fairy gardens, and then pollinators again in the Spring.
- c) The meeting returned to the subject of DGP's garden. There are two new garden beds to be built, possibly more depending on the amount of sunlight. Up to four could be accommodated. Reaching out to Paul Duke for garden bed designs may be helpful.

3. Oktoberfest Update (Barbara)

- a) Scheduled for Thursday, September 18 from 4-7pm
- b) Oktoberfest theme
- c) DGP will provide meat (bratwurst, chicken sausage, rolls, toppings), water & ice
- d) All attendees are asked to bring their own beverage & a side to share

4. Board Vision Workshop has been postponed.

5. Additional Items

a) Bulletin Board

1. The bulletin board needs to be updated. Paul Duke offered for their students to create content for flyers, etc. There is a need to determine how it can best be utilized for the community.
2. Barbara offered to manage the bulletin board. Paul will provide her with the key.
3. Paul mentioned that a local artist had reached out to provide a painting to mount on the back side of the bulletin board. Kathy will reach out to see if the artist is still interested.

b) Garden bed alumni

1. Nicole suggested we figure out a way to incorporate alumni explicit consent to stay on mailing list into the Garden Annual Renewal/Registration form, starting next year (2026-2027).

J. New Agenda Items: None

K. Additional Input/Discussion Not Otherwise Addressed By This Agenda: None.

L. Adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel, Real Estate, or Legal

1. Motion by Kathy, seconded by Prasanna and Passed unanimously at 7:20 PM to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel, real estate or legal matter(s).

M. Signed By: Paul Sumner, Chairperson

N. Attested: Shayla Royal, Deputy City Clerk