

ROOKWOOD GARDENS MEETING OF THE BOARD 9/24/2013

Attendance: Mark O'Brien, Janet O'Brien, Gary Fisher, David Galloway, David Walker

1) Update on back stairs:

David G reports on developments – still looking at use of galvanized steel.

He has heard from several vendors who would be interested in undertaking the project. The goal is to reach consensus on what material to use, then have a mock-up of a few stairs constructed for approx. \$1,500 - \$3,000 to show city for approval. Main concern will be preservation committee approval.

Note that Berl will clear snow but only if they are able to use salt since to do otherwise would create an ice hazard and liability for the custodian. That would be true for any party clearing snow from the stairs. Using treads with holes provides drainage as well as traction.

Action Item Janet: take photos of current stairs for use in documentation.

Action Item David G: press forward with Dan to develop a mock-up.

2) Financial Report

Board approves 3% assessment increase for 2014.

David W will complete budget report for distribution at the December annual meeting.

3) Garden Discussion

Fence installed around Sherman side garden. Need to modify south end to provide opening for access.

Board approves expenditure of \$180 to shorten the south section in order to provide access opening. Mark will check with fence company to see if they can also add a spring closer to the main garden gate.

Discussion of adding large stones on northwest corner to discourage foot traffic cutting across that corner, as well as in the center of the newly-cleared southeast corner of the main garden to both cover large tree root and also for visual focal point. Largest expense would be in delivery and moving stones into position. Estimate total cost to purchase and place stones between \$750/\$1000. David W notes that there is money earmarked for plants that could just as easily go to hardscape. However, board members express concerns about making that kind of investment in something that would be difficult to "undo" if it didn't look as good as hoped.

May consider some other kind of planting at the northwest corner and/or semi-permanent low fencing to discourage cut-through.

David G adds that we should consider black mulch for gardens next year.

Action Item: Mark and David G look at the locations, discuss options, and report back to Board in October.