

Report from Kathryn Pankowski, JBNA Garden Advocate, December 2019 and January, 2020

Projects

The Michigan/Menzies Garden

- With the generally mild weather, the gardens are looking much better than they did last winter. We've had another fairly extensive drive-through which required all the stepping bricks by the street to be lifted and relaid.
- One of the volunteers has quit, one is taking a leave of absence, and one will be out of commission due to a hip replacement. Barbara Lenes and I are doing basic maintenance until the end of February, each taking a week in turn, but recruiting more volunteers will be a priority in spring.
- The seed box group has been meeting each week and packing up seeds while we wait for the weather to get good enough to paint the box.

Food Tree Stewardship project

- Chris Adams has agreed to once again lead the fruit tree pruning but we have not yet scheduled a date as it has been so wet.

Spring Plant Swap

- We have received the park permit for May 2, Irving Park, 10-12.
- I have invited the Master Gardeners back, but am waiting for them to see if they have volunteers interested.

Berry Patch

- The volunteer group is working away and meeting weekly. We have a new member and are making steady progress.
- Have met with Parks staff to have the existing irrigation system and water supply explained to us.
- We are hoping for a Feb or Mar submission of the proposal to the city

Miscellaneous

- Have written and submitted the application for the Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator Grant.
- Please note that the City has somewhat changed the expectations for the grant. The coordinator is now expected to attend a 1 ½ day workshop in April, give tours to and provide educational opportunities for the community. Reporting will also include more info about a volunteer plan, recognition, etc. In fact, we in James Bay are already doing most of the new requirements, so none of this will be particularly onerous.
- Have written and submitted an application for a \$500 Community Garden Operating Grant for general gardening supplies.

Ongoing activities

- Regular work parties: seed box Wed am, berry patch Thurs pm
- I attended two Urban Food Table meetings.
- I wrote one column for the Beacon.