

BLAIR STREET GARDENS NEWSLETTER and NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING / February 2014

GREETINGS! Despite the deep cold of winter, it's time to start planning for another season of beauty at Blair Street Gardens. In less than two months, bulbs will be poking through the soil, and perennials will be getting ready for the wonders of summer! You are receiving this Newsletter and Notice because you generously donated to BSG in 2013 or 2014, and thus are considered a member of BSG.

2013 Activities

2013 was a year of transitioning to new leadership after Jeff Kuesel, long-time Board President and volunteer extraordinaire, resigned. Jeff gave countless hours to the Gardens, and their beauty over the years is a testament to his leadership and gardening skills.

The following were elected to the Board at the 2013 annual meeting: Ellen Henningsen, President; Leah Edgar, Vice-President; Kevin Earley, Secretary; and Megan Christiansen, Treasurer. In addition, Simone Warrack was selected to serve as Volunteer Coordinator.

MGE generously donated the plants and labor for the bed on Blair Street.

Recognizing that BSG needs to reduce the number of volunteer hours needed to plant and maintain the three garden areas, the Board began planning for a Gateway area that requires less maintenance and water. At our request, the City cut down 3 of the 6 ash trees, not only to let in more light (the Reiner spruce is much happier now!) but also to prepare for their eventual demise due to the emerald ash borer. We seeded the garden with perennials instead of planting with annuals. Bruce Woods, a landscape architect who lives in the neighborhood, kindly volunteered to create a

plan for the Gateway area to incorporate native plants and include destination seating.

We created a new website, thanks to Kate Nagel of Business Support Solutions, LLC, who donated her time and services. And we now have a Facebook page – thanks to Gary Tipler for creating and maintaining it.

2014 Activities

We will continue to maintain the Wilson Green area (across from The Cardinal Bar on E. Wilson Street), and work with MGE on the bed on Blair Street. We intend to finalize the plan for the Gateway area (in front of the Gateway Mall) and begin implementation this summer.

How to Volunteer If you are interested in participating in the planning process, or helping with planting and maintenance, contact volunteer@blairstreetgardens.org. Or check the schedule at blairstreetgardens.org, or on our Facebook page.

Treasurer Needed BSG is looking for a volunteer to handle treasurer duties. Our finances are fairly simple; the time commitment averages one hour a week. Contact Ellen at 256-1726 or

info@blairstreetgardens.org if you might be interested.

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, February 13, 2014

6:30 – 8:30

807 Jenifer Street

- Elect officers
- Adopt the budget
- Plan for 2014

All members are welcome

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www.blairstreetgardens.org

[www.facebook.com/Blair Street Gardens](http://www.facebook.com/BlairStreetGardens)

Beautifying the Gateway to Downtown Madison