


MEMORANDUM

Date: March 2, 2020
To: Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Clerk,
and Parks and Recreation Director
From: Harvey E. Sprafka 
Subject: 2019 Brooks Garden Annual Report

This is my annual financial report for Brooks Garden, as well as events and park usage last year, and plans for the 2020 growing season at the pocket park.

At the beginning of last year, the Brooks Garden account had \$825.90.

The following is a list of donors last year and expenditures for 2019:

INCOME

Knoxville Federated Garden Club	\$100.00
Eta Lambda Sorority	100.00
Anonymous Donors	<u>120.00</u>
Total	\$320.00
Plus	825.90 = \$1,145.90

EXPENDITURES

Flowers	\$296.25
LED Christmas Lights	128.76
Misc. Garden Material	<u>31.39</u>
Total	\$456.40

As of this date, there is \$589.50 in the Brooks Garden account.

There was an increase of expenditures this past year because of expenses for new LED lights, due to the growth of the seven trees in the park and the age of lights since the park's creation in 2010. The cost of flowers, however, was about the same as previous years. Depending on the variety and number of plants, an annual cost for flowers for the three flower beds is approximately \$250 to \$300.

We continue to enjoy public financial support from the Knoxville community. There was a slight increase in revenues and I expect we'll receive similar amounts this year.

Last July the Knoxville Federated Garden Club held their annual "Sitting Pretty" contest at Brooks Garden. Area gardeners plant and arrange containers for judging color, creativity, plants used and attractiveness. Holding the contest at the small park was well received by club members, participants and visitors. At the conclusion of the contest, garden club officers asked me if they could hold this year's event at the pocket park, again. I, of course, said yes immediately.

2019 was the first full year of the "Little Library" at the park. It has proved to be very popular and has great usage. The support of the small library has been very gratifying, too. Patrons take, return, and replace books. A couple of former residents gave me several boxes of books for the library.

As I did last year, I left the white lights on the ornamental trees lighted after the Christmas Season until March 1. Each year I string the trees with lights in time for Knoxville's November celebration, "Living Windows." I relight them on Thanksgiving night through January 6. The multi-colored lights on the park's Christmas tree were turned off on January 7.

I am currently making plans in selecting flower types and creating designs for the park's three flower beds this summer. In a few weeks, I'll be doing some selective pruning on the trees and shrubs at the park, as well as cleaning up refuse that has blown into the park during the winter months.

Soon the park will be colorful with tree and shrub blossoms and then spring flowers will appear.