

Minutes of the Jan 30,2023 board meeting of the Evening Garden Club (EGC)

The meeting convened at 10:10 am at the Imagine Coffee House with Janet Magedanz presiding. Also attending were Heather Emberson, Harriet Plumley, Gayle Parrish, Anne Schroeder, Nancy Sarpola, and Nancy Mandel as voting members. Also present were Kathleen Rochester as Nominating Committee chair, Adrienne Guy as Membership chair, and Cathy Kerr as presenter on Homegrown National Park.

Minutes: Prior to the meeting, the Nov 28, 2022 board minutes were distributed by email. The minutes were approved by a motion. Nancy M will send past minutes to Bekki Levien for posting to the web. On a related topic, Nancy M will send Bekki the most recent Policies & Procedures document for inclusion on the website.

Bylaws Problem: The bylaws contain a contradiction that needs to be fixed. In the list of elected officers, it says “Co-Secretaries and Co-Treasurers shall be elected to overlapping terms of two years.” But under Elections it says “The length of term of elective officers will be a maximum of two consecutive one-year terms.” Clearly we need to make the secretary and treasurer terms two years. Amending the bylaws requires a vote of the membership. Future action item.

Treasurer’s Report: The December 2022 treasurer’s report was accepted. The club has more than \$13,000. Janet suggested the club buy certificates of deposit for some of the funds as the interest rate is quite good right now.

Homegrown National Park Proposal: HNP is a program first suggested by Doug Tallamy, our January speaker, that gardeners across the country devote part of their yards to native plants. This would support birds and insects, both of which are suffering from lack of habitat. Cathy and Adrienne proposed that EGC sponsor this project locally and passed out a flyer with their proposal. They would like the club to purchase 20 HNP yard signs at \$15 each, which would be re-sold to members. Ten signs have already been spoken for. Janet asked to have more details about their proposal presented at the next board meeting.

Nominating Committee Report: Kathleen Rochester, Nancy Haldeman, and Betsy Gordon are on the committee. They have found nominees for every position except co-secretary and one member-at-large. The committee continues to recruit. Per Policy, elections are in April so the slate should be presented in March.

Good Turn Project: This was called the Downtown Garden Project in the November minutes. Melissa Cowan is heading this and sent us a report. Thirteen people have signed up and met on Jan 19th. They plan on normally working on the second Sunday of each month, weather permitting. However, in February it will be on the first Sunday, Feb 5, from 10 to 2pm.

Linda Rettig Gift: Linda gave EGC a gift of \$300. A motion passed to devote this money to the Good Turn Project to buy plants and pay for other costs. A line item will be added to the budget.

Dues: Adrienne will send out information on who has paid dues for 2023. Heather said some people have fallen on hard times or are OSU students and had difficulty paying the \$20 and wondered if we should help them. Nancy M said \$20 was a small amount and people who said it was unaffordable didn't really want to be members. No further action on this sub-topic.

Trumpetvine: Janet feels that access to Trumpetvine is a major benefit of being in the club and should be exclusively for members. Members who don't renew should be deleted from the Trumpetvine list. Discussion followed. The benefit of leaving past members on Trumpetvine is that it has convinced some past members to re-join, been used as an educational activity for 501(c)3 organizations, and been enjoyed by elderly past members who are no longer active in the club. Trumpetvine postings to sell services or products were also discussed. A motion was passed to continue Trumpetvine for members only which is in keeping with EGC Policy & Procedures 4.1.

Fundraising Committee: Dues support all club activities except grants and scholarships, so fundraising is primarily for those purposes at present. (See Scholarship, below). Heather reported that the Fundraising Committee has met and discussed past fundraising activities including lucrative bulb sales made at the Fall Festival and discussed fundraising opportunities for the future. Next meeting is February 24 from 3-4.

Book Groups: Nancy M reported that we have a Thursday and a Tuesday book group and each has met once. Eight people attended the Thursday meeting and four were at the Tuesday meeting. The Tuesday group is moving to Cathy's house in the hope that will improve attendance. A member requested an evening group. It was suggested that Nancy M could help that member start one.

Leftover Garden Books: We have been selling garden books that were leftovers from the library's sale last February. We sold some at our in-person meetings but there are still some unsold. Gayle will give them to the Albany library for their sale.

EGC website: Gayle is the website chair and will look over the site and make recommendations. She will communicate EGC with the board & chairs and with contractor, Bekki Levien.

EGC Scholarship: Kathleen and Heather researched EGC's support of scholarships and reported on this. A document sent prior to the meeting may be summarized for the EGC website. In the past, the EGC has contributed to the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs' Claire Hanley Scholarship. Funds were sent to OSFGC through the Santiam District. The District is largely staffed by the Lebanon Garden Club board. Funds accumulated by OSFGC from all statewide clubs go to the Claire Hanley scholarship which supports an Oregon resident sophomore or upper division student in specified majors. In the past, OSFGC has supported 2-3 students with \$1,500 awards. Due to COVID, no award was made in the past couple years. A 2023 scholarship is anticipated. As an aside, the OSFGC also supports the Compton Fellowship at OSU and can forward deserving applicants to the Pacific Region and National Garden Club for more scholarships.

Annual Budget: The annual budget was briefly discussed. It was agreed that it was fine as a guide.

Future meetings: The next member meeting is Monday February 6 with Emily Carlson. It was agreed EGC will not advertise our Zoom meetings widely because 1) we have a 100 login limit on Zoom, 2) administrating the Zoom session with numerous guests is difficult, and 3) the \$5 per guest income does not contribute substantially to our funds.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.
Submitted by Nancy Mandel, co-secretary