

Minutes of the April 24, 2023 board meeting of the Evening Garden Club (EGC)

The meeting convened at 10am at the Imagine Coffee House with Janet Magedanz presiding. Other officers attending were Hanne and Heinrich Niederhausen, Heather Emberson, Karen Hopson, Harriet Plumley, Anne Schroeder, Gayle Parrish, Nancy Sarpola, and Nancy Mandel. Also attending were Cathy Kerr and Robin Strauss.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 27 board meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's February report was reviewed and accepted. EGC has a total of \$13,012.66. \$9,000 has been invested in CDs at Washington Federal Bank (WaFd). The treasurer will need to keep a separate accounting of the Grant Fund.

Homegrown National Park: Cathy Kerr and Robin Strauss presented a detailed proposal to make HNP an EGC project. They proposed that there be an HNP/EGC website link, that EGC be listed as a resource on the national HNP website, and that work be done on the local native plant gardens at Maxtivity, and the Philomath School District. The Philomath Museum is another possibility. They plan on applying for grants and working with cooperators who would supply some of the volunteers. The HNP/EGC website would contain information about HNP, native plants and sources for these plants. A motion passed approving their proposal. Gayle volunteered to work with them on the website.

Programs: The club has eight programs per year, one per month from October through May. Programs are arranged by the Program Committee which presently consists of Ruby Moon and Cathy Kerr. The October meeting is a business meeting with a member speaker. The December meeting is a greens meeting (making wreaths and center pieces), November and May are plant exchanges and January and February are Zoom only meetings with out-of-town speakers. We will no longer have hybrid meetings; all meetings are either Zoom only or in-person only. Also, the club will no longer advertise programs outside of the Corvallis area.

Janet suggested that we have only one plant exchange meeting per year as they are a lot of work. Heather, who has been researching the club's history, said that the club started having two plant exchanges in 2014 because of the difficulty getting programs. Nancy S said that new gardeners like plant exchanges as they are a way of getting plants inexpensively.

Nancy M suggested that the Spring meetings (April and May) should be "how-to-grow" meetings, one on ornamentals and one on food. Gayle said she would like a meeting where we learned about the activities of some of the club's projects. Heather suggested programs on crafts, the club once had craft meetings. Janet urged Cathy to get more members on the Program Committee to get more program ideas. Karen Hopson earlier agreed to advise the committee. Nancy M offered to be on the committee.

Membership Report: Heather reported that we have 160 members, 116 single memberships, and 44 who are in household memberships. Janet is presently acting as membership chair. Svetlana Dascaluc volunteered to take over this duty.

Website Enhancements: Gayle reported that the website has been greatly improved with “join the club” links throughout. Bekki Levine has been an excellent webmaster.

Lifetime Membership: The board revisited this issue and decided that the club would not be giving out life memberships. Janet did not like the idea of selecting members and Nancy M didn't like losing the membership dues. Heather said that the next time we modify the bylaws we should change the part dealing with life memberships.

Tomato Tasting Event: The TT Committee would like some money to pay for incidentals (toothpicks, napkins, raffle prize, etc). A motion passed to allow up to \$50 for expenses.

Treasurer Position: Paul Westerberg is unable to fill this position. Hanne and Heinrich will be treasurers in the 2023-2024 year but no longer. The club needs to find a co-treasurer to serve with them in the upcoming fiscal year.

Fundraising: Cathy is going to bring some gardening books to the May meeting to sell with proceeds going to the Grant Fund. Janet will invite others to do the same. The club will not get books at the end of the Library Book Sale this year to sell to the club. Heather suggested a 50/50 raffle. Members buy tickets and the winner gets half the proceeds, and the Grant Fund gets the other half.

May Meeting: Darren Morgan will speak on Growing Tomatoes and there will be a plant exchange. It was decided to not have a regular raffle.

Submitted by Nancy Manel. EGC co-secretary