

Minutes of the January 26, 2026 Board Meeting of the Evening Garden Club (EGC)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with EGC president Nancy Mandel presiding. Board members present were Janet Magedanz, Cathy Kerr, Alan Shay, Jane Helfen, David Mandel, and Becca Smith. Christina Clark, Kathleen Rochester, and Carrie Ottow attended as guests.

Minutes: A motion passed to approve the November 24, 2025 board meeting minutes. There was no board meeting in December 2025.

Financial Report: A motion was passed to accept the November and December 2025 financial report. Total EGC assets were \$11,571.57 as of December 31, 2025. Janet M. has created an Excel document containing financial information, and will encourage the incoming treasurer to share financial reports in Google Docs. She will assist in the transition to a new treasurer in July 2026.

Grants Fundraising: Fundraising chair, Carrie Ottow, reviewed ongoing fundraising activities: BottleDrop recycling, Blooming Bucks bulb sale (via Brent and Becky's), and EGC branded apparel. Carrie shared the difficult and time-consuming aspects of fundraising and that perhaps one large fundraiser may be better than several small activities. To determine interest, a member survey is in the works. Many fundraising suggestions were brought up, and Carrie will share them with the fundraising committee for discussion. The fundraising committee is seeking direction in establishing a grant fundraising goal, which supplements the current \$1200 in the EGC budget. It was determined that \$2000 would generally cover approved grant requests, and Friends of Benton Gardeners has stepped up to provide additional funds when needed. EGC is a non-profit and has no obligation to provide grants, so fundraising and budgeted amounts may need adjustment in the future.

Grants Program – Status: Grants chair, Christina Clark, announced changes to current grant timeline dates. As grantees send in project photos, she presented three options for a photo disclaimer which will be added to the EGC website. An appropriate disclaimer was chosen, which will ensure submitted photos can be used for various grant purposes. Christina shared various ways EGC grants are announced to the community, including EGC's Instagram page.

Insights Into Gardening: Al Shay, Kristin Anderson, and Adrienne Guy will be manning the EGC table at this event on February 07, 2026.

Member Renewal Status: Per Janet M., 37 members have not yet renewed their membership. Janet provided contact information and asked the board to reach out to any of these members they know. Members not renewing by January 31, 2026 will be deleted from Trumpetvine. When a current member list is complete, Janet will apply for new tax-exempt status for EGC apart from OSFGC, which will save approximately \$500/year in insurance costs.

OSFGC Items: Nancy M. reports a quarterly club presidents' meeting is planned. She shared an email update from Jean Chapin (District Director for the Santiam District), and has forwarded the OSFGC newsletter "Mahonia" to Trumpetvine. OSFGC is sponsoring a garden photography

contest, with entries due by April 30, 2026, EGC members are encouraged to enter. A Mini-Conference in Eugene is planned for June 2026; all local garden clubs will be included.

Member/Officer Recruitment: Kathleen Rochester suggests asking new members which committees/activities they may be interested in, and is planning to update the member application to include volunteer options in tick box form, instead of a blank box to fill in. Kathleen encourages members to find someone they do not know at in-person meetings, and get to know them.

Website Problems: The membership form is found at two locations, with a different version at each. David M. will review and streamline redundant information found on the website. Due to security concerns, the EGC membership list has been removed from the website. Members may obtain contact information from membership coordinator, Janet M. It was suggested to hire a one-time Forensic IT Specialist to consolidate the EGC website.

Recent Events: Al Shay's recent safety workshop was well-attended and comprehensive. He plans to offer a pruning demonstration and suggests EGC members come forward to share their knowledge. Other local experts can be utilized to share their expertise. The December 2025 Green's Party was a success. The January 2026 general meeting was a ZOOM presentation. Providing feed-back to speakers who have not fulfilled program expectations was discussed.

February Meetings: The February 02, 2026 general meeting will be ZOOM-only. Jason Smith from Dancing Oaks Nursery will provide information on home propagation techniques. The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2026 at 2:00pm at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

Additional Items: Clackamas District of OSFGC is offering workshops covering parliamentary procedures, board member duties, etc. Nancy M. will forward information to the board. Nancy continues to receive questionable requests to post outside information on the EGC website, these should be considered a scam and ignored. Al Shay suggested a few books to the group: No Nettles Required: The Reassuring Truth about Wildlife Gardening by Ken Thompson, and The Nature of Oaks by Douglas W. Tallamy.

The meeting concluded at 3:40pm

Submitted by Becca Smith, EGC secretary