

Minutes of the March 30, 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 Al Shay, David Mandel, Janet Magedanz, Jane Helfen, Cathy Kerr, and Becca Smith. Christina Clark and Melissa Dawley attended as guests.

Minutes: A motion passed to approve the February 23, 2026 board meeting minutes.

Financial Report: A motion passed to accept the February 2026 financial report. Total EGC assets were \$16,800 as of February 28, 2026.

Good Turn Project: Melissa Dawley spoke about the Good Turn Project, which was initiated by EGC in 2022-23. The goal is to improve the downtown experience by adopting and beautifying 10 garden beds at the corner of Madison and 2nd Street in Corvallis. Melissa reports there have been very few club volunteers and they are often verbally abused while working on site. Melissa will document calls to police for assistance and has arranged for two city councilors to walk downtown with her to get an up-close look at conditions. A recent fiber optic project destroyed several plantings and she is working with city personnel to mitigate this damage. Melissa agreed to continue leading this project for another year and see how it goes. The board discussed downtown issues such as parking and urban renewal projects, along with the importance of contacting our representatives and supporting local businesses.

Grants Committee: Christina Clark gave an update on proposed grant approvals and has requested clarification from some potential grantees. A motion was passed to approve up to \$3000 to fund current grants. Benton County Master Gardener Association (BCMGA) and Friends of Benton Gardeners (FBG) may help cover some of the grant requests. The possibility of no active fundraising next year or no active fundraising and no grants was suggested. The board will discuss this further at the April board meeting when information about carryover grant funds is available. Results of a member survey regarding grant fundraising will be forthcoming. The EGC board passed a motion to remove Section 6.1.6 from the current Policies and Procedures, which required membership approval of grants. Potted Erythronium will be available for sale at the upcoming general meeting on April 06, 2026 to benefit FBG programs.

Newsletter: Publisher software is disappearing and newsletter editor, Val Hall, will switch to different software after this year. Val is requesting an assistant to provide additional content, and will elaborate in the upcoming newsletter. Nancy Mandel will also note this in her president's message.

Status of Membership/Gaggle Transition: Current EGC membership is 163. Janet M. reports the transition to Gaggle has been smooth. Gaggle will cost approximately \$12-\$15/month. Members should only respond to the original poster instead of including the