

Chapel Hill Garden Club
Board of Directors Meeting
September 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Christine Ellestad at 10:00 a.m. The first order of business was to have a moment to center ourselves so we could conduct business in a comfortable environment.

President Christine Ellestad told everyone that the funeral of Gus St John would be held on Friday, September 6 starting at 2:00 p.m. Christine had asked a representative of the church if we could help with flower arrangements. It was decided that the club would provide 6 arrangements for the reception room tables. Betsy Nininger will purchase the flowers from a budget of \$120.00. Several club members will help arrange the bouquets. A motion was passed to approve the monies for the flowers. A contribution of \$50.00 will also be made to the NCBG in Gus's memory. Jean Freeman also passed away and \$50.00 will be given to the NCBG in her memory. After a discussion on how to honor ex-presidents after their death, the Executive Board will meet to develop guidelines for this situation. It was decided to have pictures of Gus and Jean at the September meeting and Christine will make an announcement about their passing.

Hospitality Fall Coffee Co-Chairman Debbie DiSabatino said hostesses will greet and embrace our new members at the Fall Coffee. Reminders will be sent to members several days before the coffee. Board members will provide the refreshments for the meeting. Board members were asked to sign up to assist with set up and clean up. Committee members will have tables to display their activities and should bring past notebooks, sign-up sheets, and any other information they may need. Each table will have a framed sign identifying their committee. A discussion followed on what do we do with the Friendship Bouquet that Bitty Holton does during the meeting. In the past it has been given to the NCBG, but perhaps we should consider another use. No decision was made on this suggestion.

Membership Chairman Debbie Disabatino encouraged everyone to bring guests to the meetings and if you provide the name of the guest in advance a name tag will be made up for them. If any members have any changes in their addresses, please fill out a form on the membership table and place it in the white notebook. We have new name tags. New members will have white tags with red ink, board members yellow tags, membership lavender tags and guests lime tags. There will be separate boxes for new members, board members and membership. New member interest/application forms are being revised and all members will be asked to fill out the new form. The information of the forms will be entered into a database so it can be accessed more easily. Members are asked to sign up to help develop the new form, do data entry of the forms and to discuss best practices on how to assess membership satisfaction.

District 9 Director Heidi Sawyer-Clark provided information on what the CHGC is responsible for providing for the meeting. They were:

1. 10 door prizes; tour tickets
2. 3 pages; Sarah Laish, Louise Parrish and one other

3. Hospitality gifts for 4 officers; Heidi provided gifts
4. In home dinner for dignitaries at Linda Curcio's house; the Council provided \$300.00 to cover expenses
5. Vendors; Debbie is responsible for these
6. Table decorations for Head table; Jan Dean is coordinating with Linda Curcio and Linda Schmidt, the Board approved \$150.00 for flowers

A registration form will be sent to all members via a pdf file. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The agenda for the meeting is:

Garden Club of North Carolina District 9 Annual Meeting

Theme is "Inspired by Nature"

Date is Thursday, October 17, 2013

Host is Garden Club Council of Orange County

Will be held at the NCBG in Chapel Hill

9:00 a.m. Registration, coffee and snacks

10:00 a.m. Call to Order, Introductions

Program – "Inspired and Going Native" by Mr. Derek Smith

Road Vegetation Asset Coordinator Management Engineer

Blue Star Memorial Coordinator

12:00 Lunch, Plated chicken or veggie wraps with fruit, green salad and cookies

Shopping

1:00 p.m. Business

2:00 p.m. Tour the gardens and share ideas with attendees.

Education Chairman Gloria Homer reported on her meeting with Nancy Easterling, Associate Director for Education at NCBG to discuss opportunities for our members to assist the garden. Some of these activities are to provide publicity for the Children's Garden and to help with planting and maintenance in the Children's Garden along with the Garden staff every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Another activity is to host "Magic in the Garden" to be held October 12, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. till noon. Members would join the NCBG staff 2 weeks before the event to help with publicity and to collect, create and organize materials for the event, particularly the fairy market and to help children create fairy wands, hats and wings. The pre-event activities would require 5 people and the event 10 people. Gloria asked for Board input for guidelines in selecting future educational events.

Community Service Co-Chairman Vicki Scott requested additional funds for Habitat Houses, Stratford and Freedom House. The Board approved \$600 for Habitat, \$300 for Stratford and \$300 for Freedom House. A discussion followed this motion on how the budget process should be more open and with more people involved. We need to set limits on what we do for the area. We get calls from other clubs asking for our help and we have to prioritize. In the future monies will go to fund club activities first and then contributions will be made to other organizations.

NCBG's Nina Forsyth requested \$60 for Christmas balls for the tree and the balls will be sold later in the gift shop. The motion was approved.

Floral Design Chairman Betsy Nininger reported that the next 2 Floral Design Workshops will be held at the NCBG. The first meeting is on October 8th for Design Workshop 2. There are a total of 7 classes in the 2 Workshops. Christine received a request from Torey Mishoe of the FRANK Gallery to see if we would be interested in doing an event in his gallery. Betsy will meet with Torey Mishoe to see what we can do with the gallery in the near future. If we decide to do arrangements, each individual submitting an arrangement will bear all costs. Betsy and Jinny both developed arrangements for 2 paintings at the North Carolina Museum of Art last year. Betsy also suggested that we investigate Legacy Giving/Memorial Fund for the club. The Executive Board will meet and write an article for the Yearbook and website and establish a working group to handle this activity.

First Vice Chairman Ardith Pugh reported that John Grady Burns, noted floral and events designer will be the November 19th presenter. Mr. Burns will do 10 arrangements in 1 hour and will answer questions during his presentation. These arrangements will be auctioned off but 1 arrangement will be a raffle prize. Containers must be provided for the arrangements. The meeting will be open to guests and a \$5 fee will be charged. A signup sheet will be available at the Fall coffee. No name tags or refreshments will be used at the November meeting. Ardith is searching for a less costly source of risers which had been approved earlier this year. A request was made to have the chairs arranged in a horseshoe shape for the meetings. Ardith will check with Lauren about the availability of video equipment to project our presentations on the 2 overhead screens.

Community Relations Chairman Jan Dean reported on her meeting with Laurie Paolicelli, Exc. Director Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitor Bureau and Patti Griffin, Communications Director to discuss promotional efforts for both Club and Tour. A CHGC rack card is being developed for use at OCVB, Chamber of Commerce and NCBG display; a CHGC press release will be sent to OCVB highlighting our Club and announcing the Fall Coffee. Regular news stories will be sent to Patty Griffin for use on OCVB Facebook page and website and insights were offered as to how we might increase visibility in CH News and other local media. Jan suggested that the CHGC procure portable signage to have on display on general meeting days at NCBG and at our podium. Jan posted a new Promotional Video on the club's Face Book page. The Food Truck/Tour on Saturday May 3, 2014 prompted a meeting with Peter White about this possibility and he was positive. Jan also talked to Lysandra Weber of Burt's Bees to learn how to make this happen. Jan and Christine will attend the Chamber's Primetime Expo on September 19. They will also host a table at the "Business After Hours" in April at the new Hampton Inn in Carrboro. Christine met with Frank Gallery director at a "Business After Hours" and talked about a joint event where we interpreted art in florals; the Downtown Partnership and the Visitors Bureau would promote this event. Jan requested payment of Chamber of Commerce dues of \$336. Next year the Chamber is raising dues and we might not join due to cost. Jan also requested \$300 to host the April Table; a motion was passed to use \$150 from the Garden Club and \$150 from the Garden Show to fund the April Table.

The GCNC is having their meeting in Morehead City, September 22-23 and Christine circulated a clipboard for people who plan to attend to sign up to facilitate carpooling.

Garden Tour Chairman Char Thomann reported that the web site is up with Tour info including date, committee members, a garden descriptions slide show and interactive map. The first committee meeting will be September 19th at 1:00 p.m. At the Fall coffee, people can sign up to be Garden Guides and any other help.

Daphne Little will take pictures of Past Presidents at the Fall Coffee. She will also be getting a list of photos to take at events.

Treasurer Maggie Gaudet reported that we had a balance of \$20,519.42 on August 28, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectively submitted,

Betty Jean