

Chapel Hill Garden Club

Board Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2021

Present: Mary Arnold, Susan DeBartolo, Anna DeConti, Debbie DiSabatino, Mary Gillan, Sarah Kingan, Louise Law, Melissa Mahaney, Anne Montgomery, Kim Outing, Sandi Schroeder, Vicki Scott, Lorraine Tuck, Amanda Watlington, Debbie West

President Melissa Mahaney opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all. She called attention to dates for two upcoming meetings: The October general meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27 and the December board meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, December 1. Melissa specifically thanked several board members who have invested significant time and energy over the summer to prepare for a successful club year. The Handbook is due to be mailed to everyone in the near future.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Melissa reiterated the goal of assuring that all activities of the club are aimed at encouraging fellowship and communication that will enhance our sense of community. Fall meetings will not be held in person until safety of all can be reasonably assured. Otherwise, they will be held electronically. The planned workshops will be held in person inasmuch as all are to be outdoors.

Amanda was cited for extraordinary contributions in facilitating 2020-2021 meetings on Zoom, by volunteering to be the Zoom host for all Board meetings and General Meetings. The Club was able to maintain its annual schedule thanks to her special efforts.

Treasurer's Report: There has been very little activity during the "off" summer months.

Amanda noted that she has not paid for our insurance during the summer and asked for input as to when it should be resumed. A motion was made and approved to get insurance into effect immediately, so that there will coverage for the upcoming workshops.

Amanda illustrated the new reimbursement form. She asked that each expenditure be submitted on a separate form, and that all forms be submitted within 60 days of the expenditure. There is space provided for comments if there is need for explanation. Forms and receipts can be scanned and sent to Amanda electronically. Reimbursement checks will come from the bank in the future. The New Member form has been revised to clarify variable dues amounts that are dependent on the time of year a person joins.

Corresponding Secretary: Kim described the new and greatly expanded role she will have in this position. She will work to identify new ways of enhancing communication between the board and the gen-

eral membership. She characterized her role as Internal Communications. The newly formatted News Flash will contain information from board members and things members are doing within the club or in their gardens. The list of publication dates and submission deadlines will be sent to the board immediately. There will be a president's message each month, committee news, general meeting news, community service work (including volunteer opportunities), the club calendar, club news and information on events of interest in the general area. The submission date for the first issue of Flash is September 13.

Workshops Report: All will be administratively coordinated by Anna DeConti . Three workshops are scheduled, one each in fall, winter and spring. All floral workshops will be handled by Betsy Nininger.

Melissa noted that she plans to have new subcommittees work on community service and fund raising, completing the 5 subcommittees commissioned in 2020-2021 to study the areas of Tour, Membership, Finances, Community Service, and Fund Raising.

Field Trips Report: Debbie DiSabatino reported that the first trip will be to the NC Botanical Garden during their Sculpture in the Garden show. Optional lunch will be available at Merritt's nearby, where there is ample parking and outdoor seating. There will be a field trip to Duke Gardens in October. The garden at the NC School for the Blind is a possible future site for a trip.

Community Service Report: Sarah Kingan reviewed current projects and their leaders – Ronald McDonald House (Vicki), Habitat for Humanity (Anna), and Wonder Connection (Jane Lamm). Education and Future Gardeners is ongoing at Estes Hills School and a bit of work has been done at Phillips School. The Downtown Planter has been cared for by Sarah and a volunteer. Sarah asked for board support to convene a subcommittee to review the work of Community Service; unanimous approval was given. The September general meeting will feature Community Service.

By motion and consensus the meeting was adjourned.

Anne J. Montgomery

Recording Secretary