

South Surrey Garden Club
Minutes of Executive Meeting
Monday 16 October 2017 St. Mark's Anglican Church

Present: Lee Bolton, Dorothy Brown, Brenda Woosnam, Claude Hewitt, Susan Lockhart, Lorna Fraser, Cindy Tataryn, Marilyn Bryson, Sharon Lawson, Anna Ludwinowski, Dale Kastanis, Karen Ewing

Absent: Gillian Davis, Melodie Brandon

Welcome and Introductions

President Lee Bolton opened the meeting at 7:15 pm with a welcome to the new treasurer, Dorothy Brown, attending her first executive meeting.

Previous Minutes

It was moved by Sharon Lawson and seconded by Susan Lockhart that the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of 18 September 2017 be approved as circulated. Carried.

It was moved by Karen Ewing and seconded by Sharon Lawson that the Minutes of the General Meeting of 27 September 2017 be approved as circulated. Carried.

REPORTS

Plant Sale

Anna Ludwinowski stated that she had had a call from member Debbie Mellinger that her brother, who was moving, had plants to donate to the club. Anna and her husband picked up two truckloads of plants, which had already been dug up and potted. These are currently being kept in her yard. She suggested that we should put out a notice for plants that are being divided or left behind as people move. We could offer to dig up and/or divide these plants.

ACTION: Anna will prepare a notice to go out to members. If she is able to attend the general meeting she will speak to members about propagation.

Anna will send a card to Debbie's brother once she has obtained his address.

Program

Gillian submitted the following report:

"We had a positive response to the presentation at our last meeting by Mike Lascelle of Amsterdam Nurseries. He put a lot of effort into his presentation, was an engaging speaker and the feeling is that his topic was of general interest.

Botanus Bulbs are sending three speakers to the October meeting. They will be introduced by Lori Ross. They will also be selling bulbs before the meeting and during the break –cash only.

We have booked the Floral Hall at Van Dusen Garden for Tuesday 5 December to see the lights and followed by a Christmas Social. A bus has been booked. The cost is \$40 per

person and we are requesting contributions of baked goods. We hope that the Executive will participate; we would like you to join us.

I would like to speak at the meeting to announce our speaker for November and the Van Dusen visit.”

Lee and Karen explained that some issues have arisen about the Van Dusen trip. Van Dusen has changed its policy about room rental to organisations that are not non-profit societies, whereby the full price of \$600 is now charged. Gillian submitted the Constitution which states our status as a non-profit club, but clubs are no longer eligible for the discounted rate. Cindy clarified that, as a member of the BC Council of Garden Clubs, SSGC should be able to utilize the BCCGC’s non-profit society status.

ACTION: Karen will pursue this line with Van Dusen Garden’s management.

Finance

Dorothy Brown circulated the Financial Statements for the period ended 30 September 2017. She explained that the treasurer’s report which appears below the headings on each statement is an explanation that she, as a CPA, CGA, is required to include on any statement she prepares. She noted that there are a few small changes in terminology. The charges for the storage locker (\$173.25/month) have been paid for September and post-dated cheques have been issued for October and November.

The balance sheet shows a \$215 deposit to St. Mark’s which was paid several years ago. James does not know what it is for.

She commended the wonderful job that James Good has done for so many years keeping the very neat and complete books.

Dorothy informed us that VanCity required two signatures on cheques and she would normally be coordinating these signatures at the Executive and General Meetings.

Requests for club cheques plus supporting documentation need to reach her on or before these meetings in order for timely issuing of cheques.

ACTION: Dorothy will follow up with St. Mark’s secretary, Sheila, regarding the \$215.

Membership

Dale Kastanis reported that there were currently 227 paid-up members plus eleven members who had opened their gardens this year and thirteen life members. The latter two groups do not pay membership. This makes a total of 251 members. There are several membership applications still being processed. Those members who have not renewed by the end of October will be archived.

Quite a few people have notified Susan that they have moved or will not be renewing but only one has cited the increased fee as a reason for non-renewal.

With regard to reduced fees for two members sharing a household, Lorna was unable to give members’ views on this from the survey. Karen Ewing offered to compile the data from the completed surveys.

Dale has put in the first order for membership cards and these will be available at the October meeting. The second order of cards will be available for the November meeting. There was a discussion about recruiting new members and perhaps trying to program more for younger members. A brochure from the Langley Garden Club was circulated as an example of how the club could publicize itself more.

BC Council of Garden Clubs

Karen had attended the Fall Meeting of BCCGC on 14 October along with Gillian. She enjoyed the meeting very much and commented that other clubs, much smaller than SSGC, had signs and brochures on their tables advertising their clubs and had up to five or more members attending. She noted that the attendees were 95% women and there were perhaps two people under the age of thirty.

This led to a discussion about BCCGC, just as with SSGC, is challenged to attract a younger, more diverse membership. Anna felt that younger people were interested in organics and in growing food but they have no time, no land and no opportunity. She pointed out that twenty years ago there was a waiting list of 180 to join the club and this year we are one hundred members down from our optimum membership.

Library

Sharon informed us that she has been processing the new books and will cull some of the little used books. These books will be put out for members to take home for free. She has been keeping track of how many people are borrowing books and how many books are being taken out at each meeting. She usually showcases new books and books that link to the speaker's topic. It was suggested that Lee could mention these books at the meeting or perhaps Melodie could be persuaded to resume her book reviews, in order to increase library usage.

ACTION: Sharon will put a list of the new books in the next newsletter.

Logistics

Claude reported that the two keys to the new storage locker are being held by Lee and himself and that the facility is open until 7 pm. A number of members had mentioned that they missed the drop off day at the locker.

The cheque issued to the cub scouts for the September hall clean-up was made payable to "6th Peace Arch" as in the past. However, they have recently changed banks and the new bank will not accept the cheque unless it is made out to "Scouts Canada, 6th Peace Arch." A replacement cheque is being issued.

ACTION: A notice will be sent out asking members to bring signs and any other club property to the October General Meeting in order to be transferred to the locker.

Flower and Garden Show

Cindy had no Flower and Garden Show business but she and Lee informed us of the Floral

Arts demonstration and workshop that they had attended. It was presented by Marie Francoise Deprez of France. It was suggested that Cindy could show her photos on the “show what you grow” table.

Newsletter

Marilyn reminded the executive that the deadline for submissions to the 15 November newsletter is 1 November.

Darts Hill

Lorna informed us that there will be a Members Day at Darts Hill on 20 October and that will be the last event of the season as the garden will close for November, January and February.

The discussion turned to the BCCGC and Lorna suggested that SSGC could contribute our scholarship to the BCCGC scholarship fund. There were also suggestions as to how to make the Francisca Darts Scholarship more meaningful to SSGC members by inviting the scholarship recipient to a meeting and having them give a brief presentation about themselves.

Job Description for Program Chairperson

After brief discussion it was felt best to postpone consideration of this until Gillian is present.

ACTION: Lorna to forward to Gillian a job description that she had developed for this position.