

South Surrey Garden Club
Minutes of Executive Meeting
15 January 2018 St. Mark's Anglican Church

Present: Susan Lockhart, Dorothy Brown, Lee Bolton, Brenda Woosnam, Claude Hewitt, Cindy Tataryn, Dale Kastanis, Linda Stanley Wilson, Sharon Lawson, Gillian Davis, Lorna Fraser, Karen Ewing, Marilyn Bryson

Absent: Melodie Brandon, Anna Ludwinowski

Announcements

Brenda drew attention to the upcoming AGM of the BCCGC which will take place on 10 March. The club needs to appoint delegates.

Linda had circulated by email a draft of a brochure for SSGC. She stressed that this was a first draft, following a template and using information available on the website. She would like feedback and suggestions for information and arrangement so that she can draft a second version.

Linda also spoke about the January newsletter which turned out to be much longer than a mini-issue. This was due to the fact that so much material was submitted. Joan Galloway's Tips will now be included in the newsletter rather than in the minutes. The club president does not always want to prepare a message and should not feel obliged to do so for a mini-issue. Claude suggested that non-timely items could be postponed to the next issue. Whilst there may currently be plenty of material to present full issues of the newsletter, account should be taken of the workload on the editor.

Previous Minutes

It was moved by Claude Hewitt and seconded by Cindy Tataryn that the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of 13 November 2017 be approved as circulated. Approved.

It was moved by Karen Ewing and seconded by Sharon Lawson that the Minutes of the General Meeting of 22 November 2017 be approved as circulated. Approved.

REPORTS

Program

Gillian reported on the meeting of the Program Committee. The Christmas Wreath workshop conducted by Patti Chabot was rated highly. The location at Darts Hill "cage" worked well.

January's meeting will feature Tasha Murray as speaker and in February Dr. Richard Hebda, botanist from Vancouver Island, will address the club and will also need a table for sales. Gillian thanked Linda for providing excellent biographical notes for the website and newsletter.

In February there will be morning and afternoon Mason Bee workshops led by Roger Phillips. Sign up will be at the January general meeting.

There will be a tour to the garden of the president of the Alpine Garden Club in the near future. This 2 ½ acre garden in Chilliwack has recently been renovated.

Kathy Starke will be the chairperson of the Program Committee for the 2018-2019 year (applause). She will be assisted with announcements by other committee members.

Finance

The Financial Statements for the period ending 31 December 2017 were circulated by Treasurer Dorothy Brown. She pointed out that the rent is paid in arrears to St. Mark's Church and a new deposit of \$125 has been paid. Brenda asked if Dorothy could reinstate having Plant Sale information under both Income and Expenses. Lorna stated that it is difficult to make an estimate of Plant Sale expenses and that, in the past, James always produced a detailed Financial Statement following the Plant Sale.

Karen felt it was important to see that most of the profits from the Plant Sale goes to individual members who sell plants, which seems to conflict with the main tenet of the Constitution. This led to a question about the previously established Constitution and By-laws Committee. Whilst the Committee had met once it had not reported and Lorna has now handed the material over to Lee. She recommended that those growers who receive 75% of their plant sales should be involved in any discussion around this issue. Dorothy suggested that one way to view this is that the club provides a venue for growers to sell their plants who then pay the club for that service. Dale felt that the club needed to look at the fact that a few members are guaranteed a table at the Plant Sale, despite the limited space in the hall.

It was agreed that the Constitution and By-laws need to be re-examined, and that the disposition of the proceeds of the Plant Sale is but one aspect needing clarification.

Lee, Brenda, Sharon and Dorothy agreed to sit on a committee which will meet in the latter part of February.

ACTION: Lee to ask previous committee members (Lorna, Robin Harper, James Good, Pat Logie and Christine Deagle) if they would like to continue. Also, it will be mentioned at the General Meeting in case any member would like to join.

Membership

Dale stated that there are currently 294 members. As part of the effort to increase membership via more publicity Linda has started an Instagram account. She asked for feedback and input on this. Karen pointed out that the club's Facebook group, "Seize the Spade", is closed. She suggested that members of the group should be asked if they are willing to open the group.

Questions were raised about the role of Greeters at club meetings. Lori Ross originally organized this group a few years ago but later resigned.

ACTION: Lorna offered to phone Lori to find out who is now in charge and whether Greeters are directing non-members to pay their fee at the Membership Desk.

Dale clarified that she and her assistant Colleen Nesbitt prefer to sit at the side of the room where it is less busy.

ACTION: Claude will reserve seats for Dale and Colleen.

Communication/BCCGC

Karen will attend the BCCGC AGM on 10 March along with Gillian Davis. Karen will be the voting member. Both Lorna and Karen invited other members to attend this meeting which is informative and entertaining.

ACTION: Dorothy will register Karen and Gillian by mail.

Library

Sharon reported that she will not be purchasing any more books this year and she is working on culling books. She will be away for the next general and executive meetings.

Logistics

Claude referred to several issues with the storage locker. It is getting fuller as items trickle in and would benefit from some shelving. Also, we need to take inventory when the weather improves and before the Plant Sale.

He has been investigating insurance for the locker contents. Schill Insurance lowered their estimate to \$162 with \$100 deductible. He has spoken to two companies that specialize in container insurance. PAL in Calgary, for \$10,000 insurance with 0 deductible, charges \$144.40. Westland has a comparable rate for non-profit organisations but SSGC would not qualify since we are just a club, not a society.

It was moved by Claude Hewitt and seconded by Cindy Tataryn that SSGC engage PAL Insurance to supply insurance of \$10,000 with 0 deductible for the contents of the club's storage locker at a cost of \$144.40 per annum. Approved.

It was agreed that Claude should put his name as the contact and the address of the storage locker as the address, along with the club's email address. It was suggested that he put his position as well and explain that the office holder may change.

Newsletter

Marilyn announced that the next newsletter would appear on 15 March and the deadline for submissions was 1 March.

Darts Hill

Lorna informed the executive that the Darts Hill AGM would be held on 3 March. She encouraged people to join the Darts Hill Conservancy Trust Society as it is inexpensive and wonderful value. Susan Lazar is standing as a director of the Society but one more director is still required, if anyone is interested. The Society is also looking for more guides.

This year the Trust Society and the City of Surrey plan to open the garden on Fridays as well as on weekends. They are also planning to translate a brochure into Mandarin or Cantonese.

Susan mentioned that she'd been asked to put a notice on the website regarding the Darts

Hill weeders. She asked if someone will speak to that at the general meeting. She also mentioned that Linda had re-arranged some of the items on the website's home page. ACTION: Karen will ask Carol Wong to speak about Darts Hill weeders at the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Revision of Executive Duties

It was moved by Gillian Davis and seconded by Sharon Lawson that the Duties of the SSGC Program Committee Chairperson, as circulated on 8 January 2018, be approved. Unanimously approved.

Lee pointed out that we have now completed revisions of all of the executive "job descriptions", which were started 2 ½ years ago. This is best undertaken as an ongoing process and she asked the executive to please review their duties regularly.

Family Membership

Karen reviewed the responses to the budget survey completed in summer 2017 by 37 club members. There was a mixed response to the notion of family membership. Her question is "What problem are we trying to solve by offering family membership?" Lorna felt that \$70 for membership for a couple could be onerous for some and a cheaper family rate may increase membership.

Dale pointed out that some husbands joined up, at \$10, just to help out with the Plant Sale. Lorna stated that this was based on an incorrect presumption, since it is the event that is insured, not the members.

Karen maintained that since the club is running a deficit it should not be discounting membership for couples. It was agreed that we will leave the membership fee as it is, for now, and the executive can think it over. We should get out the message that partners who help out at the Plant Sale do not need to pay. Also, Dale was asked to let the executive know if any members express hardship at the new fee. Dale replied that there have been a few such instances and she has dealt with these herself on a case by case basis.

General Meeting Agenda

For the General Meeting on 24 January the following people will speak:

Anna Ludwinowski re Plant Sale, Joan Galloway, Anna Burian, Gillian Davis.

Claude asked that an announcement be made that Len Ewanyshyn had repaired the Master Gardener stand.

Due to Lee's absence, Karen Ewing will chair the meeting. However, Lorna offered to be back-up since Karen is returning from Switzerland that very afternoon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.