

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

Present: Lee Bolton Robinson, Karen Ewing, Brenda Woosnam, Dorothy Brown, Gillian Davis, Linda Stanley Wilson, Colleen Nesbitt, Susan Lockhart, Sharon Lawson, Melodie Brandon, Cindy Tataryn

Absent: Lorna Fraser, Marilyn Bryson, Dale Kastanis, Anna Ludwinowski, Claude Hewitt

Additions to the Agenda

Seedy Saturday: Karen Ewing and Brenda Woosnam will be representing the club at Seedy Saturday at Stewart Farm on 7th April. They will need to take a canopy and tablecloth, to be collected from the storage unit, and brochures, membership forms and flyers for the Plant Sale. Karen will have a banner on vinyl made for the club.

Review of finances: to be discussed under Financial Report.

Correspondence/Announcements

Lee informed the executive that Claude Hewitt and Gillian Roberts and her son had organised the storage unit. Colleen Nesbitt had donated shelves and Karen Ewing had donated two barrels to hold the signs.

A new moderator is needed for the Yahoo Discussion Group as David Broomhead is giving this job up. Tasks include signing people up for the group and monitoring the content of the posts. Melodie Brandon asked that any executive member who does not intend to stand for office for next year please let her know as soon as possible.

Previous Minutes

It was moved by Susan Lockhart and seconded by Karen Ewing that the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of 19 February 2018 be approved as circulated. Approved.

It was moved by Karen Ewing and seconded by Melodie Brandon that the Minutes of the General Meeting of 28 February 2018 be approved as circulated. Approved.

REPORTS

Finance

The Financial Statements for the period ending 28 February were circulated by Treasurer Dorothy Brown. She pointed out that in the bank reconciliation there were two outstanding cheques from last September. Dick Logie (set-up) had lost his \$25 cheque and thus donated this amount to the club. BCCGC had not deposited the cheque for payment of dues. She also pointed out the higher charge under "Speakers and Workshops" was due to the payment of hotel and ferry for the February speaker.

Dorothy informed the meeting that Lorna Fraser had forwarded the SSGC Comparative Financial Information from 2013/14 to 2017/18 which was presented at last year's AGM. It showed a contingency amount of \$2,000 for a new computer and related equipment for this year's budget, which was approved at the AGM of July 2017.

Review of Finances

Karen expressed her concern that the club is likely to have more than a \$3,000 deficit at the end of the year, which will come as a rude surprise to many members. Lee responded that the membership base is down by 70 from last year and the club is at a turning point in terms of an aging demographic. We are making efforts to market the club and need to consider how to cut expenses. The club does have surplus funds on which we may need to draw. There was some discussion about the surplus and what amount members felt, in the survey, should be held in reserve. It was pointed out that we have operated a deficit budget for the past 4 years so the surplus is steadily being run down. Colleen observed that there were a number of expenses that were not in the budget four years ago and perhaps we need to ask members to step up.

Looking at sources of revenue it was again proposed to alter the 75%/25% split at the Plant Sale, with 75% of the price of the plant going to those growers who claimed it and 25% going to the club. While a 50%/50% split had previously been proposed as a goal some felt the shift should be graduated, starting with a 60%/40% split. Several people felt it was too late to introduce this change this year. Others suggested that the idea should be brought up with sellers to let them know that change is coming and to see if they are willing to implement it this year.

ACTION: Lee will contact Pat Logie and ask her to explain to the "Big 5" growers that the club has to change to payment formula and to gauge their response to introducing a 60%/40% split this year with the 50%/50% split saved until next year.

ACTION: In the Executive Report at Wednesday's General Meeting there will be mention of the 70 members lost and the resultant increase in the budget's deficit and that we are trying various strategies to address this.

Plant Sale

In the absence of Anna no report was given. We were reminded that a propagation session would take place at Gwen Odermatt's on Wednesday and Christine Deagle will bring sign-up sheets to the General Meeting.

Newsletter/Brochure

As Linda had left for her other meeting there was no report on the newsletter.

Karen distributed the brochures, which had been displayed at the BCCGC meeting, for the consideration of the executive.

Comments:

- on the front page: a border around the full page
 - box around the name of the club
 - move club logo to the back
- replace photo of flower on centre inside page with logo
- keep fonts consistent (club name on front and on logo)
- one logo was selected to be used

The discussion about payment for the brochure was cut short.

ACTION: Karen will share these changes with Linda when she returns from holiday.

ACTION: Gillian will research a printer who had done a job for free for the club in exchange for putting his business name on the bottom.

Communication/Webmaster

Susan reiterated that when the contract with Wild Apricot, the club's website server, expires in November it will not be renewed due to the increase in its charges. No decision has been made about a replacement. Apparently it is the membership functions provided by Wild Apricot that adds to its cost and will be difficult to replace. It may be necessary to work with two servers: one for providing information and one to act as a membership management system. A decision needs to be made before the budget is drawn up (May/June) so that accurate figures can be included. ACTION: Susan and Karen will confer regarding servers.

Program

Gillian Davis stated that March's speaker, James Spears, will speak before the business part of the meeting.

Heather and Heidi from the Program Committee must speak before the break about the alpine garden tour. They will have sign-up at the back of the room and will need a table.

The April speakers from Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden are all arranged. The committee is thinking about organising a tour of the garden followed by a Chinese meal.

On 7th June there will be a succulent dish workshop led by Melodie Brandon at Kathy Starke's house.

The Program Committee is now working on arranging speakers for next year, taking into consideration budget constraints. It was suggested that instead of an outing in December that we have a pot luck event in November, perhaps with Susan Murray to speak. Some other suggestions for speakers: Pam Yokome on bonsai, Roger Phillips on his garden tour of New Zealand, Ken Warren, Acting Coordinator at Darts Hill.

Membership

Colleen Nesbitt was representing Dale Kastanis at the meeting. Lee announced that Dale will be leaving South Surrey and moving to Osoyoos in the near future but she has offered to continue as Membership Secretary until the end of her term.

Flower and Garden Show

Cindy reported that the tables have been booked at Confetti Rentals, the judges have been booked and she has ribbons and rosettes purchased last year. She requested that Claude notify the church that the hall and foyer will be needed from 1 p.m. onwards on 27 June. Cindy's next task is to update the titles for the floral design categories.

BCCGC AGM and Sunshine Update

Karen reported that the BCCGC meeting had been very interesting with a wide range of speakers. Betty Curran from Kwantlen Polytechnic University Horticulture Department gave an informative presentation on scholarships that had been received from BCCGC and their impact on recipients. Brenda Woosnam has joined the Scholarship Committee. Gillian presented the idea of naming our club's scholarship the "Ed and Francisca Darts Scholarship."

Revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws

The next meeting will be held on 9th April. Lee mentioned by-law 7 which states that non-budgeted expenditures over \$750 must be taken to the executive and she asked what members considered a reasonable amount to be spent by an executive member before needing executive approval. A number of executive members were unfamiliar with this by-law and felt that \$750 was much too high an amount.

AGM Issues

Lee would like the executive to be thinking now about issues to be dealt with at the AGM. Last year we encountered some confusion as new executive members took over from the old. There are a number of substantial issues currently being dealt with and we need to be well prepared.

Prior to adjournment there was further discussion on ways of reducing expenditure and increasing income. Some ideas for fund-raising included having a day of garden tours (similar to those formerly organised by University Women's Club), charging guests who come to our open gardens, having an event at West Coast Gardens next year.