

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

Welcome and Announcements

The meeting was opened at 7 p.m. by President Lee Bolton Robinson who welcomed new members and visitors.

Members can sign up with Patti Chabot for snow-drops to be mailed by last month's speaker, Dr. Richard Hebda.

There is a sign-up sheet at the library table for anyone interested in purchasing a Seedy Square (for square foot gardening). Gillian Roberts will order these.

At the Master Gardeners' table there are sheets for members to sign up for various jobs at the Plant Sale. Look for Christine Deagle, Anne Sprung and Brenda Woosnam. They are also selling white plant tags (20 for \$1).

At the back of the room Heidi Baloun and Heather Parker are registering members for a tour of Chris and Jane Byra's alpine garden in Chilliwack. This will take place on 19 May and will include a trip to Minter Country Garden Store. Car pooling will be arranged and there is a \$5 fee for the tour.

Susan Lazar introduced and thanked the evening's speaker, James Spears, who spoke on the topic of Vegetable Gardening Twelve Months of the Year. Mr. Spears answered questions following his presentation.

BREAK

Plant Sale

In Anna Ludwinowski's absence, Lee reminded members that it was time to get plants out of the ground in their gardens and potted up for the Plant Sale which is coming up on 12 May. There was a propagation session held today at Gwen Odermatt's which went well. Lee demonstrated how to POPP your plants.

Portray: describe your plant fully on the white tag (Latin name, common name, main characteristics, bloom colour, conditions required etc.)

Organise: use the correct tag for the correct information.

Price: on yellow tag; along with who proceeds go to (Club or membership#).

Present: plant should be well presented, no weeds or dead bits; the pot should be clean.

There was a question as to whether there would be a table for tools for sale and whether 100% of the proceeds would go to the club. That will have to be checked with Anna when she returns.

Executive Report

Lee spoke about the challenges facing the club's executive this year due to the flux and changes that are affecting other garden clubs as well. Our club is aging and there is a changing demographic in the South Surrey community.

We are looking at the Constitution and trying to simplify and clarify it to reflect the club as it is now and as it should be in the future. This will be presented to members for consideration before the AGM.

The budget is also presenting challenges since it was based on last year's membership figures but we have 70 members less this year. We plan to interview those people who have not renewed their memberships to find out why. But the result is that there is decreased revenue. Our costs continue to escalate with the rental of a storage locker and, in previous years, paying more for set-up and clean-up and for A/V support. The Executive want the membership to know that efforts are being made to cut costs whilst all these aspects are being considered. It welcomes any thoughts or ideas that members have.

Lee mentioned that the AGM of the BC Council of Garden Clubs was held on 10 March and at least eight members of SSGC were present. A number of club members are on the executive of BCCGC. Lorna Fraser is president, Cindy Tataryn is first vice-president and Lorraine Shenker and Gillian Davis serve on the Scholarship Committee. Lorraine is stepping down this year and Brenda Woosnam will be joining this committee. There was a brief discussion about the Scholarship Committee and amounts donated by clubs. It was suggested as a cost saving measure that SSGC reduce our scholarship amount and donate it to BCCGC for distribution.

With reference to the club's finances, there was some discussion about why the club doesn't draw down on the approximate \$18,000 of reserve funds. It was suggested that there needed to be time set aside for the membership to fully discuss the finances of the club. A question was asked about the results of the survey of members last summer, specifically the question on the amount of money that should be kept in reserve (surplus to the budget) each year. Lee reported that only 36 people had responded to the survey and some people felt that \$10,000 was sufficient as a reserve fund.

Robin Harper suggested that there be time allocated for a fuller discussion of these issues and that members be presented with the information on where the club will stand financially at the end of the year. It was agreed that the May general meeting would be appropriate as the results of the Plant Sale will be known.

ACTION: The speaker for May will be asked to present in the first half of the meeting so that the discussion can take place after his departure.

ACTION: The executive will make available to members at least one week ahead of the meeting a current financial statement, a projection to the end of the financial year and other relevant information.

From The Garden

Anna Burian gave some advice regarding African violets which will be reported in "Garden Clippings."

Program

Gillian Davis outlined upcoming events.

The April general meeting will feature two speakers talking about Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden.

On 7th June Melodie Brandon will lead a workshop on succulent dish gardens. The sign-up will be next month.

She encouraged club members to think about opening their gardens to the club.

Logistics

Claude Hewitt informed the membership that on 12 March he and Gillian Roberts and Gillian's son reorganised the locker and inventoried the contents. Everything was put into plastic tubs and labelled and a master list made up. This list or key to the boxes is near the entrance. Thanks to Colleen Nesbitt for donating some free-standing shelving and to Karen Ewing for donating two barrels to hold the signs.

Tips

Joan Galloway had tips on a seed starting kit, making a rooting solution and supporting pollinators. These will be available in "Garden Clippings."

Following the draw for door prizes the meeting was adjourned.