

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

Present: Lee Bolton Robinson, Karen Ewing, Brenda Woosnam, Dorothy Brown, Gillian Davis, Susan Lockhart, Melodie Brandon, Cindy Tataryn, Claude Hewitt, Marilyn Bryson, Anna Ludwinowski, Sharon Lawson, Dale Kastanis

Absent: Lorna Fraser, Linda Stanley Wilson

Announcements

The executive was reminded of the deadline of 1 May for submissions for the May newsletter.

Previous Minutes

It was moved by Karen Ewing and seconded by Dorothy Brown that the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of 19 March 2018 be approved as circulated. Approved.

It was moved by Claude Hewitt and seconded by Dorothy Brown that the Minutes of the General Meeting of 28 March 2018 be approved as circulated. Approved.

Facebook, Instagram, Website

Lee spoke about some changes that will be occurring in the club's social media sites. We plan to change our web server as a cost cutting measure. Linda Stanley Wilson has set up an Instagram account for the club. And when Juhli Farrell leaves the club and the city she will be shutting down the "Seize the Spade" Facebook account and the club will have to open a new one.

ACTION: Dale, Susan and Karen are conferring on possible new websites that will meet the club's data needs.

Seedy Saturday

Karen and Brenda informed the executive about the Seedy Saturday at Stewart Farm on 7 April. It was deemed worthwhile despite the foul weather. The Plant Sale and the club were publicized and bookmarks and brochures were given out. Karen had produced a vinyl banner with the logo and name of SSGC on it. We spoke with a potential speaker and her information was given to Gillian Davis. There is a Harvest Fair at Stewart Farm on 22 September and that would be an ideal time to seek new members.

Membership/Website

Dale was asked how the figure of 70 less members in 2017-2018 from the previous year was reached. She explained that in July 2017 there were 355 members and there are currently 304(on dashboard) or 306(on search) members but 22 are "free" memberships. This also includes a few members who haven't as yet paid and a few members who have

paid but not filled in an application form. She expressed that Wild Apricot is a blunt tool when looking for specific information. Karen has contacted Kathy Bryce (former webmaster) to see if she can throw some light on the membership figures. Susan asked if we want a membership component within our website or simply an information function. Dale pointed out the advantage of Wild Apricot in that it gave every club member access to contact information for every other member. Anna suggested this membership information could be put on Excel. Susan informed the executive that Kathy Bryce had recommended Wix as a website server. Anna questioned whether we would own the domain because, if not, Wix could close it down.

Plant Sale

Anna reported that there had been a Plant Sale meeting at her house last Thursday evening. There are still many unreturned signs but what is in the storage locker will be brought to the general meeting on 25 April for distribution. Cindy asked for the table coverings for the outside tables to be brought to the general meeting as well. Claude was asked to provide three tables for Plant Sale sign up as well as one for selling plant tags. Gillian asked for two tables for program sign ups. ACTION: Claude to bring Plant Sale signs and other items to the general meeting, assisted by Dorothy and her truck.

Unique Soil

Lee explained that the man who took over the production of Unique Soil from Cors de Lind wished to sell bags at the next general meeting. The cost for a 30 liter bag is \$7.50. However he asked for a guaranteed sale of 100 bags which would require Claude to take advance orders, unlike other years. Because there are so many things currently going on it was felt that we would not take this task on this year. ACTION: Claude will contact Mr. Gelderman and inform him of this decision and members can be referred to his website (geldermanfarms.ca) in the newsletter. Sharon will add this website to the club's resource list.

Flower and Garden Show-2018

Cindy anticipates that the show will cost \$800 this year because she bought the rosettes and ribbons last year. ACTION: Claude to remind the church (Sheila) that we will need the kitchen, hall and narthex from one p.m. onwards on 27 June. Claude was asked to remind Sheila about the Plant Sale times and dates as well.

Results from Telephone Survey

Karen presented the results of the telephone survey conducted by executive members of those club members who did not renew their memberships from the 2016-2017 year. The

consensus was that people were receptive to the calls and positive towards the club in their responses. Generally people did not renew due to life circumstances: illness, moved away, or lifestyle choices such as attending other meetings, work, babysitting grandchildren.

It was mentioned that some people could not attend because they don't drive at night. There have been suggestions in the past to offer rides but coordination and continuity have presented problems. There was a suggestion to continue the newsletter for a year after people leave the club but others felt that the newsletter was a major perk of membership.

Susan questioned what the club was striving for in terms of membership. She suggested that the club can't accommodate a membership of 400 or more.

Budget

Lee has been working on a document to present to members. She circulated a draft of this (Budget Highlights 2017-2018) to the executive. She has had a number of phone calls from members since last month's general meeting when questions about the club's budget.

The executive was most appreciative of Claude's offer of the services of his husband to store, transport and operate the club's A/V equipment for \$50 per meeting. It was felt that Daniel, the current A/V person, would understand the club's budget constraints and Karen agreed to talk with him about continuing until the end of the fiscal year (July).

With regard to the storage, Anna felt that members didn't appreciate the inconvenience of having club property stored at members' homes and how items get lost and damaged.

Referring to the circulated document, Lee pointed out the motions regarding the storage locker. Motion 1 is to address the additional deficit that we incurred outside of the budget: *MOTION 1: That the costs (\$840) associated with the storage locker at Sunnyside Self Storage that are in excess of the budgeted costs of \$1,200, for the months of September 2017 to August 2018 be approved.*

Discussion followed on whether we could continue with the storage locker, given the need to not spend more than the club's income. Whilst there were many good reasons why club possessions are best kept in a safe and accessible environment such as a locker, it was pointed out that members had been safe-keeping these in their homes for 28 years.

If the will of the membership is to not pay for a locker, the following motion can be introduced:

MOTION 2: That the storage locker at Sunnyside Self Storage be closed and all SSGC materials be stored by members at their homes in a dry, secure, free and accessible environment with a master inventory held by the Logistics Chairperson.

There were several other proposals for budget savings. Dale pointed out that there are over one hundred membership cards that were not picked up this year and that last year she threw out 80 cards. She proposed that we print only one card per member with their name and membership number and the club name and logo on it.

ACTION: Dale to approach Minuteman Press to check the cost of printing just name cards. Dale to check with nurseries if they would accept a card with the name written in.

Sharon reported that member, Jennifer Carrier, had given a cheque of \$40 to the club because she has had a number of overdue books over the years. Sharon volunteered that the library could operate on a \$200 budget next year.

There was a proposed change to the Constitution and By-Laws to eliminate free membership for life members. Cindy was not in favour of this as she felt that life members were honoured for serving the club for many years and the free membership is recognition of their service.

Gillian Davis mentioned that next month's speaker will be more expensive because she needs to be reimbursed for ferry and accommodation plus her fee.

Agenda for April's General Meeting

The list of speakers for the business part of the meeting:

Plant Sale	Anna
Survey Results	Karen
Executive positions	Melodie
Member Recognition Awards	Melodie
Flower and Garden Show	Cindy
Motion on Locker	Lee
Program	Gillian

ACTION: Claude to email photograph of the locker to Lee.

ACTION: Executive members to email Melodie regarding retaining their positions next year.

The meeting was closed at 9:35 pm