

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

Welcome and Announcements

Those in attendance were welcomed to the meeting by President Lee Bolton Robinson. She gave thanks to those people who have been propagating plants for the Plant Sale in the rain and cold and special thanks to Gwen and Paul Odermatt for hosting these sessions and babysitting the plants.

It will be a busy evening with sign-up for volunteers for the Plant Sale, signing out the signs advertising the Plant Sale, sign-up for a garden tour in May and a succulent workshop in June in addition to a few vendors and our speakers.

This weekend is the Plant Sale at Van Dusen Gardens.

The SSGC Flower and Garden Show will be on 27 June and members could start thinking about what they might bring.

The club is planning on changing its webserver due to the high cost of the US server and three members are looking at possible sites.

The "Seize the Spade" Facebook page set up by Juhli Farrell will be disbanded when Juhli moves and the club will organise another Facebook page. Additionally, the Yahoo discussion group manager, David Broomhead, would like to hand this job over to a new person.

A letter was read from Andrea, from the Better at Home Program based at Come Share Society. There is a need for volunteers to help seniors with light gardening. If anyone is interested please see Lee afterwards.

Lee showed a slide of Karen Ewing and Brenda Woosnam manning the SSGC table at Seedy Saturday at Stewart Farm. We are looking for more opportunities of this type to reach out to the community.

Cors de Lind, who used to deliver Unique Soil to our meetings for purchase by members, is no longer able to do this due to illness. Members can contact Mr. Gelderman (geldermanfarms.ca) who is selling a similar product for \$7.50 per 30 liter bag.

Joan Galloway is looking for a caretaker for some seedlings intended for the Plant Sale. Heidi Baloun volunteered.

The White Rock and South Surrey Naturalists will meet at Sunnyside Hall, Bakerview Park on 10 May at 7:30 pm. The topic will be "Bees in our Backyard."

Darts Hill Garden will have an Open House and Plant Sale on Saturday 28 April from 11 am until 3 pm.

Plant Sale

Anna Ludwinowski, chairman of the Plant Sale, introduced the committee: Claude Hewitt, Christine Deagle, Gillian Roberts and Brenda Woosnam.

She announced that there were 17 days until the sale and that there were many jobs for volunteers on both Friday and Saturday. The sign-up tables are at the back of the room. If you signed up at the previous meeting please check that your name is where you want it to be. We could use more strong people and people with trucks. If your 'significant other' is willing to help, they no longer need to be a member of the club in order to help out at the Plant Sale.

Every task has a coordinator who will phone their volunteers in the week ahead of the Plant Sale. She asked volunteers to look at the timetable which went out in an email, is online and at the back tables.

Anna pointed out the benefits of volunteering: spending the day with plants, being with nice people, the Friday night pot luck dinner, the advance purchase of a few plants and the volunteer draw at the May meeting. With regard to the purchase of plants on Friday evening, it may be necessary to limit this to two plants if we find that there is a reduction in the amount of plant material.

For the Mother's Day table she asked members to consider bringing small attractively potted plants for kids to buy for under \$10.

With regard to the pricing of plants, one could look at nursery plants and then put a lower price. We want to offer good value and we want to present and sell healthy plants. Every pot should be clean, weeded and have two tags in it, a white tag with the name of the plant and information for growing as well as the price and a yellow tag with the price and either CLUB or your membership number written on it, depending on how the proceeds are to be split. The tags cost \$1 for 20 and are available on a back table including some that are pre-marked.

We will have a table for tools and lawn ornaments which will be a 100% donation to the club.

Please no motorized equipment and no hoses.

There are signs available to be taken home. The white and red signs should go up no more than six days ahead of the sale and the yellow tulip signs should go up early on the morning of the sale.

The pot luck dinner is open to all volunteers; please bring your own plate and cutlery and a labelled pot luck dish for 5 pm on Friday.

Plants can be brought to the set up on Friday starting at 1:30 pm. The timetable for the two days was reviewed.

Anna stressed that the success of the Plant Sale depends on all members publicising it and getting people out. She asked that members take home posters and bookmarks to put up and distribute.

Election of Executive and Member Recognition Awards

Past President Melodie Brandon announced the executive positions that needed filling for the 2018-2019 year.

Vice-president

Secretary

Membership Chairperson

Plant Sale Chairperson

The elections will take place at the AGM in July. If there is anyone who would like to consider running, please let Melodie know. (The duties of the positions are available on the club website by going to 'Administration' and clicking on 'Executive'. By clicking on each position the duties will be shown.)

Melodie described the two Member Recognition Awards: the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Service Award. (The criteria and nomination form are available on the club website by going to 'Administration' and clicking on 'Awards'.) If members have someone they wish to put forward for one of these awards they should see Melodie.

Program

Gillian Davis thanked Linda Stanley Wilson and her son Bryce for running a photo workshop at Ocean Park Community Orchard, in which a number of club members participated.

There will be a succulent dish workshop on 7th June led by Melodie Brandon.

On 20th May (new date) there will be a garden tour of an alpine garden in Chilliwack.

May's speaker will be Leslie Cox, the Duchess of Dirt. Her garden was on the club's Vancouver Island garden tour last summer.

Logistics

Claude Hewitt told us that this year's Plant Sale will be his first and he has helped to organise three propagation workshops at the Odermatts. He thanked them for making time and space for the plants and for teaching us so much.

Claude asked members to be collecting plant trays for the sale and informed us that trucks will be required on Friday. He reminded us to keep putting up posters and bookmarks in shops and coffee shops. Debbie Mellenger is distributing Plant Sale signs at the side of the room.

Member Survey

Karen Ewing presented a number of slides explaining the results of the 2017 Survey of Members. She acknowledged Lorna Fraser who designed the survey and Brenda Woosnam who collated it.

There were 34 respondents to the survey.

15 had been members for over 17 years.

Half the respondents (17) felt \$5,000 to \$10,000 was an adequate amount to be held in the bank account at the end of each fiscal year.

31 members would continue in the club with a \$35 membership.

There were mixed responses to a number of questions around donating for goodies, donating for the door prize and family membership.

6 out of 7 eligible respondents would hold an open garden again if there was no free membership.

22 out of 27 eligible respondents would NOT hold an open garden for the first time if they received a one year free membership.

Karen explained that the questions about goodies and door prizes were asked in case the membership was against the fee increase and we needed to look at alternate ways of raising money.

Budget Item

Lee presented a number of slides which gave information about the storage locker for members to consider. The locker provides accessibility and security for the club's materials and equipment which were previously scattered around in a number of spots, some unknown. At the 2017 AGM a budget allocating \$1,200 for locker storage was approved. When a locker was secured in September, the cost exceeded the budgeted amount by \$840.

The hope is that we retain and grow our membership to cover this expenditure. Lee asked members to think about this before the financial discussion at the May meeting.

Gardening Tips

Joan Galloway investigated further gardening myths which will be reported on in the May issue of "Garden Clippings".

BREAK**Speakers**

Sharon Beard introduced and thanked this evening's speakers who spoke and showed slides from Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Hayne Wai and Bob Willmott.

Following the draw for door prizes the meeting was adjourned.