

Minutes
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
District IIB Steering Committee Meeting
May 8, 2018
Sue Wittick's home, Okemos

Present: Lynn Keelan, Barb Ketchum, Sue Wittick, Peggy Bryson

The meeting commenced at approximately 1:35 p.m.

The group assembled the new photo exhibit stand. It is housed temporarily at the Wittick's until someone volunteers to take responsibility for storing it. There was discussion of how to account for use of monies donated by Showspan through Lois Snover-Hanson to make this purchase.

The Eagle Eye invoice for the IIB spring district meeting was discussed. It erroneously billed for skirted tables for the vendor area, when the contract called for unskirted tables. Barb and Peggy will follow up.

Peggy reported that Patty Cotter of the Meridian Garden Club attended a training by the Michigan Charitable Gaming Division and reports that there are conditions under which raffles can be conducted by qualified non-profits without the need to obtain a license. The group agreed to invite Patty to brief us on the subject at a future meeting.

Peggy provided a summary of District fundraising year-to-date. Net revenues were: pollinator pins - \$253.30; logo tees - \$78.68; notecards - \$19.14; golf ball critters - \$125.85; District meeting sale table - \$283.89; spring meeting silent auction - \$807.46. The group decided to seek permission to sell pins at club plant sales. Proceeds of Centerpiece sales at the District meeting were income to the Mason club and donated to the District.

Sue presented, as a proposed fundraiser, a design for drop earrings to match the District's pollinator pins. She will request a price quote from the pin manufacturer for cloisonne drops to her design. She also suggested again, and the group discussed, purchase of a garden marker/plant labelling system. It would allow the District to provide clubs with economical and professional looking plant markers for their gardens and perhaps contribute a small amount to District coffers. The group unanimously agreed to purchase the Kinkaid garden marker system with 15" stakes.

The group discussed and unanimously approved purchase of a PA system like the one borrowed from Meridian Garden Club for the spring District meeting. It will save the cost of renting equipment from meeting facilities and can be made available to clubs. The group also approved purchase of paper, toner and sticker paper/labels for the new District printer.

On Sunday, July 8, 2018, the Looking Glass Garden Club is dedicating a Blue Star Garden at the Wacousta cemetery. The group agreed to attend.

Lynn reported that she has been invited to install new officers for the Garden Club of Greater Lansing (May 14) and Williamston Garden Club (June 11).

Sue will send club presidents a sign-up sheet for e-mail subscriptions.

Sue reports a lot of interest in the new IIB interest groups and that there has been a request for a landscape design group.

A large yardage of yellow fabric was donated to the District. It is currently in Sue's possession.

There was discussion of organizing events (e.g., picnics) in conjunction with upcoming garden walks (Marshall, LaCasa). Check with Steve Rhodes whether there's a park pavilion where we could have a potluck.

The Marshall club will be featured in the June newsletter.

The group discussed our goals for the August Presidents meeting. These included:

- Honor the presidents
- Provide tools to help them with their presidential responsibilities
- Identify any expectations of clubs
- Assist clubs with maintaining and growing their memberships

We also considered whether to do another round of Beehive Buzzes instead of a Presidents meeting. Meeting locations considered were the MSU Plant and Soil Science Conservatory, Southern Exposure, Heavenly Scent Herb Farm, and Grand Oak Herb Farm.

Workshops: There was no response to our inquiry of club presidents about interest in a 501(c)(3) compliance workshop. Barb will check with the barnwood facility in Mason about scheduling a sign making workshop for crafters in June or August.

Sue and Barb will attend the Thursday session of the MGC Convention, Lynn both Wednesday and Thursday. Peggy and Sue will plan to attend the Marshall club's June 19 meeting.

Next meeting: June 12, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Okemos

Action items

Lynn Officer installations: Greater Lansing, Williamston

Barb Check with Barnwood facility re scheduling June or August sign-crafting workshop

Peggy Add yellow fabric to District asset inventory
Invite Patty Cotter to brief the committee on the rules governing 50/50 drawings and other raffles
Check with Steve Rhodes re Marshall pavilion for potluck in conjunction with garden walk
Check with Steve Rhodes the time of Marshall club's June 19 meeting

Sue Purchase PA system, plant labelling system, office supplies
Send presidents a sign-up sheet for e-mail subscriptions

Submitted by Peggy Bryson