

**Minutes**  
**Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**District IIB Steering Committee Meeting**  
**June 12, 2018**  
**Cracker Barrel Restaurant, Okemos**

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

Guest: Patty Cotter, member Meridian Garden Club

The meeting commenced at approximately 9:06 a.m.

Patty Cotter summarized information she received at a recent seminar conducted by the Michigan Charitable Gaming Division. She expressed that, while rules for some gaming activities might prove too onerous for small organizations and those that convene infrequently, there is provision, under certain conditions, for conduct of raffles by organizations that are qualified with the Division without the requirement of obtaining a license. The exception is for a single raffle held by a qualified organization during an event conducted by the organization, all of whose tickets are sold and which drawing is held during the event, if the total prize does not exceed \$100 in value. Patty noted that the Division plans to conduct another training in Brighton this autumn. Sue said she would include information on the upcoming training in the District newsletter.

Patty also provided information on a Grants and Foundations Directory that is available for review at the MSU Library. She then departed the meeting.

Sue asked and Peggy answered questions about the May treasurer's report. Peggy noted that after making the surplus split payment and transferring District meeting sales-related sales taxes to MGC, the checking account balance will be under \$900.00.

Lynn and Barb signed the final report on the April District meeting. The group pondered the question whether proceeds from the District sale table should be included in calculating surplus proceeds from the meeting. Peggy left a voice message asking that question of the MGC treasurer. Sue noted that, even if the revenue must be included in the calculation, and the division of surplus among MGC, District, and host club, the District should be able to net the cost of the sold items.

The group discussed sale options for future District meetings, including allowing all District clubs to sell at a communal table(s).

The group discussed community project grants, the application form and what approvals would be needed. Current District finances are not sufficient to make such grants, but future fundraising and donations likely will enable us to begin taking applications. We're aware of several projects in the District that would be good candidates for this program. Peggy will check with Bunny whether the District may fund community project grants from its checking account in the absence of a District interest-earning account.

Barb presented the member surveys from the District meeting and Peggy offered to compile the results.

As the group began its discussion of fundraising, Sue asked that each steering committee member ask club contacts if they have any need of plant labels for their gardens. She thinks there would be a good market for pollinator earrings and we discussed pre-sales, as was done relative to pollinator pins, to finance an order. We also talked about whether there might be opportunity for bulk sales to bee-related businesses or garden and nature centers. The group agreed to solicit pre-orders for the proposed earrings. Sue will provide Peggy with information and an image for the District website.

There is potential for the District to have a vendor table at the Central Region Convention. Sue will find out who is managing vendors for the convention and inquire about reserving a space. In addition to note cards, pollinator pins and bee earrings, we speculated that the various IIB interest groups could be interested in making items to sell.

Sue mentioned that at the Across the Fence Post plant sale, it was mentioned that it's difficult for small clubs in small markets to sell annuals. They can't get good volume pricing. The group discussed whether there's a role for the District to purchase annuals in bulk for multiple clubs. We talked about delivery logistics and the potential need to get deposits from participating clubs. Mason club works with Weesie's in Montague. We wondered whether Christians in Williamston would be interested in working with us on this. Peggy will check with Bunny whether the District could serve clubs in this capacity.

Barb reports that the Mason Barnwood facility is not doing programs this summer and that the picnic tables at the Meridian Farmers Market Pavilion would not be comfortable for crafters who need to stand to work on their pieces.

The group decided that, instead of a presidents meeting in August, we would consider conducting a brief president's meeting the day of and prior to a future District meeting. We contemplated that District meeting starting at 10 am and having just one speaker, with the Presidents meeting beginning at 8 am. We decided to conduct this summer another series of Beehive Buzzes in a variety of locations. We will invite presidents to bring guests and solicit in advance the topics they wish to discuss. Sue will contact presidents regarding the date/location they plan to attend and expected attendance from their clubs. Dates and general locations selected: July 19, 24, and August 8 (lunch and discussion) from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, at Grand Oak Herb Farm, Old Chicago in Okemos, and somewhere near Battle Creek/Marshall; and August 18 (breakfast) at Bob Evans in DeWitt.

Sue presented a proposed District recruiting brochure.

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

The group did not set a date/location for its next meeting.

#### Action items

Lynn Check with Grand Oak Herb Farm re: availability to host one of the Beehive Buzzes.

Peggy Talk with Bunny about (a) treatment of proceeds from District sale table at DM, (b) whether the District can make community project grants from its checking account balance, (c) whether the District could assist small clubs with a bulk purchase of annuals for their fundraising.  
Contact DeWitt Bob Evans about meeting space on Saturday, August 18.

Talk with Steve Rhodes about a recommended Beehive Buzz location near Battle Creek, whether there is a garden club in Battle Creek, and whether pollinator pins could be sold at the garden walk.

Compile results of the member survey taken at the District meeting.

- Sue    Include item on upcoming training by Michigan Charitable Gaming Division in District newsletter  
Check with Marshall and Looking Glass clubs whether they have use for the District PA system at their upcoming garden walk and Blue Star dedication.  
Send Peggy info and image of bee earrings for posting on website.  
Remind clubs to send their new member rosters.  
Contact club presidents regarding their expected attendance at July/August Beehive Buzzes and their date/location choice.

Submitted by Peggy Bryson