

**Minutes**  
**Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. District IIB Steering Committee Meeting**  
**January 15, 2019**  
**Chapbook Cafe, Okemos and Michigan Nature Association**

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

Meeting commenced at 11:45 am.

The meeting commenced with a discussion of a District budget for fiscal 2019-20. The group concluded it is important to include funding for club community projects. We noted this group has been aggressive in fundraising but that may not continue, so will project less revenue from that source. The District will host the MGC state convention in June, 2020, and there may be some event expenses paid in the prior fiscal year. Peggy will develop a draft budget for consideration by the group.

The group discussed replacing the popular “club of the month” feature in the District newsletter, since all the clubs have been featured. Barb suggested replacing “club of the month” with “meet so-and-so”. The group approved the suggestion.

At this point Peggy left the meeting to deal with a family emergency. Barb volunteered to take minutes of the remainder of the meeting.

The date of the spring meeting is set for Thursday April 18, 2019. The location is the Livingston County Public Safety Building on Tooley Rd. in Howell. Maximum capacity is 150 classroom style. There is a meeting in a portion of the room until 9:30 am. The location was chosen because it is available at no charge, you can bring in your own food and use the caterer of your choice. The alternative was the Conference Center in Okemos. The cost there was \$500 (this is the discounted rate to non-profits) and you needed to use their caterer. Livingston County does require a certificate of liability insurance with them as named party. Barb will contact the MGC person regarding this, also determine if there is a cost. *(Update: The insurance certificate was obtained and there is no cost.)*

Barb is working with Lois Snover-Hansen and also has volunteers from the Hartland club as well as Carol Grainger for tech support.

Goal is to keep the cost under \$30, preferably less. Price will be determined after we obtain cost for food and projects.

We are planning on registration at 9:30 and meeting starting at 10:00. Ending between 2:30-3:00. The meeting will be designed to be an event rather than a traditional meeting. Dress casual. No vendors, centerpieces, or baskets. There won't be a business meeting, but announcements will be made. Included would be results of the March flower show and Marilyn Lee Award.

Barb will look into cost of catered box lunches or hot lunch. Soup, salad and breadsticks from Tomato Brothers was suggested. Building staff said Panera's had delivered box lunches in the past. Breakfast can

perhaps be muffins or other baked goods brought by members, packages of nuts or cheese for those needing a protein snack.

Possible craft projects were discussed. The goal is to make something inexpensive with easy to obtain materials. We have to be able to put them together quickly after registration closes April 1<sup>st</sup>. One project suggested by Lynn O'Shaunessey was an inspiration board for your garden somewhat like scrap booking. Sue was not in favor of that one. Lois had provided a folded butterfly. May be too easy for adults, may be useful as a project to teach kids.

Lois may speak about something to do with flower arranging. Another suggestion is to provide a basket of flowers and supplies to 3 different people. Demonstrate how each person would come up with something completely different.

Sue suggested having a white elephant auction. She said the designers' group has done this before. Kathy Dominguez was the auctioneer. (*Update: Barb contacted Kathy, she will be traveling and won't be available.*)

Having one speaker was discussed. We would want someone to inspire the group to get out and dig in the dirt. Lynn suggested Dan from Bordine's might come, and she will contact him.

Sue reported that the photographers interest group will be setting a meeting date on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:30. Location Michigan Nature Association.

Youth Gardeners met previous week at Williamston for their Smokey Bear awards program. Meeting was well attended.

Crafters are arranging a time for a Painting with a Twist event.

Sue will be arranging a date for meeting with those who volunteered to be part of the new steering committee group.

1. Lynn has been making club visits. She recently attended Brighton's meeting. The speaker was the "Houseplant Guru" speaking on topiaries. Hartland and Webberville clubs are the last 2 on the list.
2. The flower show classes in March still have some openings.
3. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 21, 1:00 pm at MNA. Bring your lunch at 12:30.