

**Minutes**  
**Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. District IIB Steering Committee Meeting**  
**April 10, 2019**  
**Michigan Nature Association**

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

**Guests:** Anne Crimmins (Hartland Home & Garden Club, Incoming District Director), Ronalee Polad (The Garden Club of Greater Lansing, incoming District Treasurer)

Meeting commenced at 1:38 p.m.

Lynn reported on the recent MGC District Directors meeting. The District Director job description has been updated. MGC Policies and Procedures have been updated.

Lynn also reported on the recent MGC board meeting.

- The board discussed concerns about intellectual property and copyrighting documents and photos. It is important to obtain a release form from members and others for photos used. (Ronnie Polad volunteered to look into how to copyright logos, etc.)
- The board anticipates doing more teleconferencing.
- Mary Pulick is no longer handling membership, so club member rosters and dues payments are to be sent to Janet Hickman this year.
- The cost of mailing hard copy of The Garden Gate to a member not having e-mail consumes \$3.75 of the member's annual MGC dues payment. Districts are to encourage clubs to print the newsletter for those members. Sue suggested that MGC charge a subscription fee for MGC's mailing of print copies of the newsletter.
- Monica Taylor and Janet Hickman are aiming to schedule a District Director meeting on August 4, 5, or 6, 2019. New club kits will contain directions on locating MGC policies and procedures, District Director handbook, and MGC handbook.
- The deadline for ordering the new MGC pollinator garden sign is May 6, 2019. The price is \$20.00 and cost to MGC is \$10.03.
- District Directors are to notify dues-delinquent clubs that they will forfeit their memberships after October 1.
- MGC is seeking to hire part-time administrative help.
- Black swallowtail bills have been introduced in both Michigan legislative houses.
- District Directors can now be reimbursed for administrative expenses beyond the former allowance of \$9.00 per club. The \$500 mileage allowance for District Director visits to clubs continues.
- District Directors will meet with Monica Taylor, incoming MGC 1<sup>st</sup> VP, following the state conference. In Anne's absence, Ronnie plans to attend.
- The MGC president will have to pay tax on the past president pin, which is categorized as an award.

We discussed the transition to a new District steering committee after May 31. Anne is seeking to identify tasks that are the responsibility of the District Director.

Barb distributed a proposed agenda for the Swing into Spring event on April 18. She has allotted ½ hour at the outset for awards and announcements. We wondered how to display the new District banner in the facility. Lynn will check with Lynn O'Shaughnessey. Anne and Ronnie will be introduced as the incoming steering committee. Barb will announce the fall District meeting rotation schedule and talk about the ease of getting a certificate of liability insurance through MGC for events. Sue will bring the District's portable sound system. The facility has projection and other electronics. Sue will have a display for IIB interest groups and fundraising. Lynn O'Shaughnessey will discuss garden inspiration boards. Tomato Brothers-catered lunch will consist of lemon chicken, salad and bread sticks. Barb will be at the facility at 8:30 on the 18<sup>th</sup> for set up. Peggy and Sue will carpool to be there to assist. Attendees are advised to put their names on the clippers/nippers they bring for the afternoon make and take session.

Sue reported that Ron Overton, who will chair the 2020 Environmental Studies School, will attend the Midland ES series to observe how it's run and talk with the organizers. Deb Plichta (Looking Glass GC) will serve as school registrar. The question arose whether individuals who are not members of garden clubs could participate in the school.

In exploring options for the April IIB Photographers meeting, Sue reports that the MSU butterfly house is too crowded for using tripods and other bulky photographic equipment. She is waiting to hear from Lansing Camera. Sue will present a session on cell phone photography at the group's May meeting, and the June meeting will feature "Bee-tography". The Youth Gardening interest group is seeking a meeting host for May. The IIB Crafters need a project for April. Schedules are being developed for the June flower show hosted by the Meridian Garden Club. Sue has printed plant labels that need to be affixed to steel garden tags and stakes for sale at the April 18 meeting. That work will be done when this meeting adjourns.

Anne Crimmins will speak with Laura Grainger and Ann Schoals regarding introductory articles for the May District newsletter. Ronnie Polad will ask Jenny Bond to write a personal introduction for the May newsletter.

Sue encouraged the District to purchase a sturdier display board for District educational displays. Current board surfaces are easily damaged. She will research models and prices and make a recommendation.

Next Meeting: 1:30 p.m., May 14, 2019, Michigan Nature Association

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

### **Action Items**

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| Lynn Keelan  | Consult Lynn O'Shaughnessey regarding method of hanging IIB banner at 4/18 meeting facility. |
| Peggy Bryson | Send results of the 2018 member survey regarding District meetings to Anne and Ronnie.       |

- Sue Wittick     Bring display re: fundraising and IIB interest groups to 4/18 meeting.  
Bring portable amp and mic to 4/18 meeting.  
Research models and prices of display boards.
- Anne Crimmins   Speak with Laura and Ann regarding writing short pieces introducing themselves for the  
May IIB newsletter.
- Ronnie Polad     Speak with Jenny Bond regarding writing a feature piece about herself for the May IIB  
newsletter.  
Research how to copyright.

Submitted by Peggy Bryson