

Minutes
District IIB Steering Committee Meeting
December 11, 2017
Aubree's Pizzeria, Howell

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

Guests: Kathy Mikuska, Julie Cooper and Elaine McIntyre of Brighton Garden Club; Madeline Masterson of Meridian Garden Club

The meeting commenced at approximately 1:08 pm.

We discussed plans for the 2018 fall District meeting. Kathy, chair of the meeting planning committee, showed us samples of the fairy dresses she created and plans to use as table centerpieces. These centerpieces will not be auctioned at the meeting. She reported on planning progress.

Date: October 25, 2018

Venue: Crystal Gardens [An alternative site was not competitively priced.]

Theme: "Avant-Garden: Blending Fashion, Art and Nature" or a variant thereof

Meals: \$22 for continental breakfast and lunch buffet. *Check whether commercially produced cookies could be brought in for the afternoon break.*

Speakers: None confirmed. Possibles: photographer Lori Tennant (\$250 fee), an unnamed basket weaver, Dan Ingram of Bordines

Sixteen planning committees have been established and chairs selected for most.

The venue is asking for a \$500 deposit to hold the date for the event. The group discussed and asked Kathy to make the venue contact aware that MGC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and request waiver of the deposit requirement. The group discussed what meals at the event are to be comped. MGC President and 1st VP are to be invited, along with state committee chairs whose educational displays are wanted for the event. There was discussion of splitting surplus revenues from the meeting among the state organization, District, and host club(s). Peggy reported that MGC treasurer Bunny LaDuke stated that, with the exception of sale of table centerpieces contributed by the host club, all surplus revenues from District meetings are to be retained by the District and none go into the MGC general account. Bunny also noted that MGC is reviewing and updating its policies and procedures and the question of splitting meeting surpluses is under discussion. The group discussed how event printing costs have been handled. Sue suggested the District purchase an inexpensive laser printer to reduce the cost of printing event documents and other materials for clubs. Madeline offered to submit a silent auction item.

Kathy, Julie and Elaine departed.

The Steering Committee discussed the 2018 spring District meeting. The group talked about sale of ads in the meeting program to help fund the event. A volunteer will be needed to solicit advertising. Barb suggested having fewer vendors in order to accommodate a possible flower show (horticulture only). Ad sale revenue would be especially important if there is to be less vendor registration revenue. The group

also discussed whether to have a IIB vendor table, with a suggestion that it consist of a white elephant sale. Possible vendors were identified:

- a maker of metal yard art
- a maker of birdhouses in the form of vintage campers
- a maker of purses and bags
- a maker of nightlights
- Grand Oak Herb Farm
- Nellie's Lavender Estate
- a jeweler (Renate is not available on April 18)
- Meridian Garden Club? (Peggy said she can supply cast concrete leaves for the table.)

Vic Foerster (no fee; Secret Life of Trees) and Gretchen Voyle (likely \$100 or less; Pests in the Garden) are being considered as speakers. A Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club member would make centerpieces if Lois Snover-Hanson does not. Barb reported that Eagle Eye is unable to quote meal prices for the April event until pricing is updated in January. The group noted that the fall 2017 meeting lunch was much larger than most members would eat. Madeline reported that the meal choice was less costly than the salad that was considered. The continental breakfast and afternoon cookie included with the selected meal were not included in the price of the salad entree, making the salad a more expensive lunch choice than the heartier hot meal. The IIB tri-fold display needs to be updated. Sue volunteered to create the spring event flyer.

There have been no volunteers to date to assist with planning and executing this meeting. Sue will check whether Colleen Hyslop, who assisted with registrar duties for the Meridian club last fall, will take on that responsibility for the spring meeting. The group discussed that the newsletter does not appear to be reaching members of all District clubs and that direct appeals to club presidents for help may be necessary. Madeline suggested sending a separate event announcement to club presidents. Barb volunteered to phone presidents to ask for auction baskets.

Barb will ask the Marshall club to submit a Club of the Month piece for the February newsletter.

At Friday's meeting, we need to ask Lois about ownership of flower show inventory and talk with Kathi Dominguez about a presidents meeting.

Action Items

Sue Wittick:

- Create flyer for 2018 spring District meeting
- Check with Colleen Hyslop about serving as event registrar

Barb Ketchum:

- Check with Marshall about writing a club of the month newsletter piece
- Phone club presidents to request they provide auction baskets

The meeting concluded at 4:00 pm.

Peggy Bryson