

Minutes
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
District IIB Steering Committee Meeting
March 1, 2018
Michigan Nature Association, Okemos

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

The meeting commenced at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Julie Stoneman, Director of Outreach and Education for the Michigan Nature Association provided an overview of the organization.

Barb reported on attending a class at Michigan Barnwood in Mason. She explained that the instructor is not associated with the facility and suggested that the District sponsor a sign-painting class this summer. Potential facilities for a class were discussed. Barb will check the cost and availability of the Meridian Farmers Market pavilion.

Sue reported that she has not followed up on the denial of our advance request to MGC. She will draft a proposal for partnerships to fund the purchase of fundraising pins and said that the Meridian club president was receptive to the concept. She reported that Lois Snover-Hanson believes that Showspan would partner with the District for flower shows. Lynn asked Sue to send the District Director's report to MGC. Lynn told the group that the District was asked to consider organizing a IIB Artists interest group.

Sue and Lynn stated that they will have entries in the March flower show. Sue (MGC Nominating Committee) and Lynn will attend the April 4-5 MGC Board of Directors Meeting.

Barb reported that 10 vendors will be exhibiting at the spring District meeting. Lynn and Barb need to set the agenda and then develop a detailed agenda for those who will be speaking. They noted that Lois Snover-Hanson will need time after the lunch to talk about that day's and upcoming flower shows. Time needs to be allocated, as well, to the Blue Star and Black Swallowtail initiatives.

Sue expressed disappointment that few club members appear to be reading the District newsletter. She suggested embedding a hidden code that members could identify for some sort of reward. There was discussion whether a coupon on the website would be considered conducting a lottery. Sue will check with Rose. The group wondered whether there is a dollar value limit below which door prizes can be given without holding a lottery license.

Sue offered to create a map of blue star memorial gardens in the District for posting to the website. The group discussed creating of a map of District pollinator gardens for the site. Some of that information would be in the recently submitted presidents' reports.

We agreed to plan for a meeting with all 16 club presidents in August. Kathi Dominguez previously offered to assist us with this. We also decided to repeat the Beehive Buzzes in the fall, scheduling one in the evening for employed club presidents, with the presidents choosing which event they wish to attend.

It was suggested that youth flower shows be held in different locations across the District, perhaps in assisted living facilities. Another idea discussed was holding flower arranging classes for seniors.

Barb suggested the Barnwood facility could be a good location for some workshops, including IIB Crafters. Sue reminded us of the need to have a session to make the golf ball bees stakes for sale at the spring District meeting. Perhaps they can be included in the meeting centerpieces. Kathy Mikuska last year expressed willingness to lead a workshop on making flower fairy dresses.

Peggy was asked to add to the District website interest group descriptions and contact information. We floated ideas for additional interest groups: Presidents, club treasurers, program directors, IIB Artists.

Sue suggested that IIB Photographers create a video of photos from the March flower show to run during lunch at the spring District meeting.

The next meeting will be on April 10 or 11, 2018 at the Michigan Nature Association in Okemos. Lynn will check whether Lois Snover-Hanson is free to attend.

The meeting concluded at approximately 1:55 p.m.

Action items

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| Lynn | Send Peggy the photos from the orchid show.
Check with Lois about her availability to attend a steering committee meeting on April 10 or 11. |
| Peggy | Add Interest group information to the District Website. |
| Sue | Redesign the District tri-fold display for use at the March flower show.
Send District Director's report to MGC. |
| Barb | Work with Lynn to develop April District meeting agendas.
Check cost and availability of Meridian Farmers Market pavilion for a sign-painting class. |

Submitted by Peggy Bryson