

Minutes
Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
District IIB Steering Committee Meeting
April 10, 2018
Michigan Nature Association, Okemos

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

Guest: Lois Snover-Hanson

The meeting commenced at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Lois asked that a 4'x4' quilt be created with just the IIB logo on a honeycomb background. Three submissions were received for the Marilyn Lee award: Across the Fence Post, Meridian, and Webberville garden clubs. Lois described the award as an appreciation, not a competition.

She reported on Showspan's reimbursement of flower show expenses for 2017 and 2018, noting that Showspan plans to give funds to cover floral design and education expenses. It's also looking to help fund programs to encourage young gardeners. Barb noted that the Mason club is starting a youth garden club. Lois departed.

Barb reported that there will be one additional vendor at the District Meeting. She listed the vendors and described the table layout for the event. Space has been allocated for Vic Foerster's book signing. The room will be available to us at 6:30 am the day of the event, with vendor set-up at 7:00 am. Sue told Peggy she has the first shift at the IIB sales table. We discussed whether silent auction item bid sheets should contain a minimum bid amount or an estimated value.

The group approved the purchase of two cash boxes. We agreed that purchase of a portable photo display would be desirable, depending on funds remaining after paying the expenses of the spring district meeting. Model preferred is a four-panel, x-format display from Displays2Go.

There was discussion about selecting a club to feature in the May District newsletter.

Lynn reported briefly on the recent District Directors meeting. There was discussion of the MGC audit report findings. One outgrowth of the report is a new monthly District treasurer report that replaces the semi-annual reports of revenue and expense.

The group discussed concerns about attrition due to clubs that are not able to attract new members. One club reportedly has not met for over a year. We also explored whether there may be opportunities for bringing new clubs into MGC. Some areas may be able to support an evening club as well as one that meets during the day. One challenge to membership recruiting is raising awareness of clubs. Perhaps members could be encouraged to "bring a guest" to future District meetings.

Peggy offered and the group approved a new format monthly treasurer report. It reports financial activity by category rather than just providing a summary of the check register.

The group discussed the planned August presidents meeting. A facility should be reserved soon. Lynn will check with The English Inn near Eaton Rapids regarding availability of its main dining room. We concluded that presidents input should be solicited regarding meeting date and what they want from a meeting of the 16 clubs' presidents.

The group discussed club interest in understanding what they need to do to comply with government expectations of 501(c)(3) public nonprofit corporations. There are five 501(c)(3) clubs in District IIB. We concluded that we could offer a workshop on the subject in June and should ask club presidents if they're interested. Since we're trying to move District events around the district, we will solicit their recommendations of facilities that could accommodate 30-40 people. Peggy will draft a communication to club presidents with the responses to the questions that they raised at Beehive Buzzes and soliciting input on a 501(c)(3) workshop.

Lynn will check availability of the Michigan Nature Association and committee members for a Steering Committee meeting during the first few days of May.

Action items

Lynn Bring the new monthly treasurer report form to Peggy at the District meeting.
Check availability of the English Inn for an August presidents meeting.

Peggy Send Sue a list of vendors and their contact information.
Explore with Rose Houk/Bunny LaDuke whether District can pay for lunches at a presidents meeting.

Submitted by Peggy Bryson