

GCH Board Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023
Meeting held at the home of Claire Burnett

Call to order at 12:10 PM by Claire Burnett

Present: Claire Burnett, Mally Cox-Chapman, Mary Ann Haar, Marcia Hall, Carrie Hammond, Jan Hickcox, Nora Howard, Marian Kellner, Katie Nixon, Brie Quinby, Kristen Renehan, Sally Richter, Pat Salner, Donna Stout, Margaret Szerejko

A motion to accept the 11/15/2022 Board Meeting minutes was made, seconded and approved

President's Remarks - Claire Burnett

-Please note the location change of the Feb 7 general Meeting. It will be held at the Sarah Porter Memorial, 37 Main St., Farmington.

-Thanks for sending your committee reports ahead of time . The committee reports are contained in the **consent agenda** you received by email, which you should preview prior to the board meeting. The reports will not be read at the meeting but the format of the meeting will allow for any questions or further discussion regarding items/issues in these committee reports. Going forward ,committee reports are due 1 week in advance of the board meeting.

-February Trumpet Vine deadline: this Friday, 1/20.

-Joint Meeting was a great success. I received a request from Susan Wildridge, Zone II ZCCC to nominate Dr. Susan Masino as an Honorary GCA member for the 2024 annual meeting. Mally has been notified of the intention to nominate her and will take care of the letter of intent. Thank you and congratulations to Mary Ann Haar and members of the Floral Design Committee for the wonderful Sweepstakes and the beautiful centerpieces. Congratulations also to GCH members on their individual awards. There is concern about extending the registration deadline for CVGC and that some of our own members were late in registering. This puts undue stress on the Hostess Committee.

-Congratulations to Donna Stout (Communications Chair) and Brie Quinby (author) for the article featured in GCA Winter Bulletin describing the May 2022 GCH Central Park trip. Another article is in the pipeline describing the Riverfront Recapture September Stroll, text and photos by Nora Howard.

-Arlene Whitaker Memory Tree Fund balance is \$1160. Farmington Land Trust will provide a piece of brownstone from the Wilcox-Bushley Memorial property for mounting our plaque. The Garden Club of Hartford will be acknowledged on the plaque.

-Thanks to Kelly Jarvis for looking into new 990-N tax exempt filing. Going forward, the FGCCT will be taking care of the filing for GCH with a simple form, already submitted for this year.

-Eleanor Mullen sent lovely note of appreciation for the memorial flowers for her husband.

-Conferences:

NAL Conference , Washington DC, March 12-15th. Pat Salner will be the GCH representative.

Upcoming online conferences:

Floral Design, Feb. 28; registration link will be in the Trumpet Vine.

Photography , Jan 26; go to the GCA Committee Page.

-2023 Gavel Challenge Seeds (Dwarf Sunspot Sunflower). See me after the meeting for seeds. Growing instructions will be mailed.

-A brief discussion as to whether the Zone II meetings should be held annually or biannually led to general sentiment that they should continue to be held annually, but to consider a more abbreviated form.

-Kudos to Garden History and Design Committee/Clare and Jared Edwards. Of all the gardens submitted in 2022, the Edwards Garden was the only one from CT In the American Gardens Annual Report for 2022.

Treasurer's Report: numbers submitted by Kelly Jarvis on 1/17/2023

Main Checking Account \$ 31,622.00

Carry Over Fund \$ 6,175.00

Perennial Fund	\$ 22,009.00
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 5,155.33
Community Fund	\$ 45,731.00
Education Fund	\$ 6,321.00

Committee Reports:

Civic Projects: Katie Nixon

I. The committee is considering **3 options** for future project consideration, all with Hartford Land Bank

1. Partnering with a neighborhood resident group to create a playscape and children's raised bed teaching gardens near Garden/Pliny St intersection.
2. Supporting development of lots for urban farmers, one in the north end and two in the south end.
3. Four lots in Clay-Arsenal area are slated for mixed use housing/grocery store with sliding scale prices/food bank/locally grown food. They would like a sitting area with trees, bench etc.

Update on possible next steps will follow a meeting between Katie, Carrie and Exec. Director of the Htfd. Land Bank. We have until Fall 2023 to decide on a project and create a budget.

The project that is chosen is the one that we raise money for at our November auction. Civic Projects Committee would like a consensus from the whole club when choosing one of the above options. We are hoping that each committee would get involved in some way, and, knowing that there are lots of demands on our time, we are asking for input from each committee as to how much effort they are willing to put in.

II. Partners for Plants (P4P) account balance

The P4P account balance is in the range of \$3500 (actual amount to be determined). The original plan to use this money for planting a small traffic circle at the Woodland St entrance to Keney Park has been scrapped, as the city has

already designed a plan. The money will be used somewhere else in Keney Park. We will still be applying for another grant in March.

III. Bushnell Gardens Quilt

Things continue to be delayed because of City of Hartford red tape. Katie and Amy Schuster are staying in touch with the project and hope to see action/completion in 2023.

Conservation Committee: Marcia Hall

As a project for the next two years, the committee has decided to focus our efforts on the topic of solid waste management, at local and focal level. We are going to try and keep it simple and manageable:

- 5 minute oral presentations at the start of each GCH business meeting (beginning in February) to spotlight pertinent subtopics : **Feb**- tips on how to reduce use of plastics; **March** -tips on reducing food waste, food storage ideas to optimize freshness; **April**- info re electric composers.
Topics for following year might include: Managing lawn and garden waste(Electric lawnmowers, no mow May, direct mulching) ;Christmas waste; Managing leftovers from eating out; Recycling info and how to's; Clothing repair and recycling.
- Possible partnership with a school, classroom, or school conservation club to educate children about composting and food waste with the hope of ingraining responsible habits and attitudes at an early age . We need to work out logistics. Several schools in the area already have composting programs and **CT.gov** has a manual for setting up food scrap diversion programs in schools. Marcia will follow up on this.
- Field trips: **BD Provisions**, Newtown CT, a new franchise concept offering bulk foods sold by the pound in sustainable containers , eliminates packaging and reduces waste; ? **Quantum Biopower**, anaerobic digestion plant in Southington.
- **Conservation Pamphlet** - we hope to create a pamphlet that summarizes our ideas and provides links to resources and information that will be helpful to our members in the quest to eliminate/reduce our solid waste.

- **Program** - speaker for October 2023, Ken Budris , Conservation Law Foundation Zero Waste project member/ Just Zero

No Mow May - Mally Cox Chapman

Mally has successfully spearheaded a “No Mow May” project in her own neighborhood in the past and would like to involve all interested members of the GCH for this coming May. She exhibited the sign to be posted on participating homeowner’s lawns during the month of May, - “No Mow May, Pardon the Weeds, We Are Feeding the Bees” whereupon the homeowner does not cut the grass for the month (or whatever time period is possible) There is evidence that this does good for our pollinators. She will present her case to the entire club and signs will be available for a nominal fee. Her goal is at least 80% participation.

Founders Fund: Kristen Renehan

3 finalists have been chosen for the GCA 2023 Founders Fund Grant:

- Cylburn Arboretum Friends Nature Education Center Garden (Baltimore)
- Butterfly and Bee Pollinator Meadow at Chickasaw Park in Honor of Muhammad Ali (Louisville)
- Sowing and Growing Evanston Grows: Urban Gardens and Community (Evanston)

Please take a moment to read through these submissions, published in the Winter GCA Bulletin and in the attached PDF. All GCA clubs will vote for the winning project. Voting by all active GCH members will be by an email ballot to be distributed and received prior to the March 7th general meeting. Claire Burnett will then submit the GCH’s winning choice to the GCA Civic Improvement Committee and the grant will be presented to the winner at the May GCA Annual Meeting in Columbus Ohio.

Membership: Pat Salner

-After reviewing the responses to the member survey, the committee has found that one of the concerns that some members have is the financial

responsibilities of membership- the cost of dues, hosting, fundraiser donations, and trips is more of a burden to some members than others.

The Zone II membership rep has informed us that GCH dues are higher than most others in our Zone.

To become attractive to a broader range of members, and to retain current active members, we may want to consider reexamining our membership fee structure and/or consider the institution of a Member support fund.

The committee would like us to consider a motion to establish a member support fund, to help underwrite a portion of the fees/dues for members who might need financial support in order to join, or remain active. Please send any thoughts or suggestions to Pat, to allow for further discussion on the matter.

- Pat spent a day at the CT Historical Society, researching GCH archives and By-Laws, and found no stated restrictions of membership by gender, now or ever, and there is no limitation on inviting men to become members. Broadening our membership can only strengthen our organization. Pat will have a full report on her research in the February Trumpet Vine

Communications: Donna Stout

Success! Several articles have been published, or are in the pipeline to be published, in the GCA Bulletin, as Claire has mentioned in her previous remarks. To reiterate:

- June 14-15 Zone II Annual Meeting description (GCA Winter Bulletin p.64)- Claire Burnett/Susan Rathgeber
- Visiting Gardens Committee May 2022 Central Park Trip article (GCA Winter Bulletin p 68)- Brie Quinby
- Keney Park Education Program article, submitted and accepted, to be published - Katie Nixon
- September Stroll at Riverfront Recapture article, ready for submission -Nora Howard
- Friends of Holcomb Farm Tree Trail Project - description/article will be posted on the GCA Website Zone II landing page

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Szerejko
Recording Secretary