

GCH Board Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023

Meeting held at the home of Claire Burnett in Farmington

Call to order at 12:06 PM by Claire Burnett

Present: Susie Barney, Claire Burnett, Marnie Greenwood, Mary Ann Haar, Marcia Hall, Debra Herr, Jan Hickcox, Nora Howard, Susan Izard, Marian Kellner, Mem Morrissey, Katie Nixon, Brie Quinby, Susan Rathgeber, Sally Richter, Julie Shushtari, Mara Sfara

A motion to accept the February 21, 2023 Board Meeting minutes was made, seconded and approved

President's Remarks – Claire Burnett

1. Reminder: Federated Garden Club Annual Reports are due April 1st. Committees that are required to complete these are Civic Projects, Conservation, and Horticulture.
2. The Federated Dues and roster updates have been submitted.
3. Our GCA Founders Fund Grant vote for the "Sowing and Growing Evanston Grows/ Urban Gardens and Community" has been submitted to the GCA Civic Improvement Committee.
4. All 8 of our proposed members have enthusiastically accepted membership in GCH, they are; Jilly Walsh, Tracy Payne, Marnie Rubin, Jill Peters-Gee, Al Gatti, Linda Alexander, Amanda Layden, and Sarah Uphoff Dreyer. I have sent each a note of welcome and invitation to attend the April 18th Board meeting. Committee chairs will give brief descriptions of their committees followed by a super salad lunch. The business meeting will start at 11:30am, the new members arrive at 12:30pm.
5. We need to decide on our Charitable Contributions for 2022-23. The CT Historical Society has already received a \$150 donation/dues contribution. Please be thinking of other organizations, we have \$300 remaining. In the past we have given to Healing Meals (Auer Farm), Keney Park Sustainability Project, Knox Park, Inc. and Foodshare.

6. The question of purchasing a supply of compostable cups and plates for the public meetings has come up several times. We will be discussing this during our meeting.
7. Committee chairs are reminded to submit receipts and reimbursement requests in a timely manner. It is very difficult to prepare an accurate and fiscally responsible budget when the current year requests are coming in late.
8. The Digital Archive Committee (Susie Barney, Susan Rathgeber and myself) have met three times and hope to have a proposal ready for the April Board meeting. To date a draft Host Committee Photography Guideline Document (please see attached) has been created and will be included with Host Instructions for Head Hosts going forward. A draft Committee Photography Guideline document has also been created for any committee events or work parties (please see attached). We welcome comments or suggestions to these documents prior to Board approval.
9. The GCA Annual Meeting is taking place May 23-24, in Columbus, Ohio. I am excited to be attending along with my designated club delegate, Susan Rathgeber.
10. Kelly Jarvis will not be continuing as Treasurer next year. I would like to request that we have the nominating committee immediately begin to find a replacement.

Claire also announced that on May 30 there will be an orientation for “old new” members and new members to discuss protocols, website, GCA website...

A sign-up for the Super Salad meeting was sent around.

After discussion of various charitable organizations, a motion was made for our contributions this year.

Motion: To donate \$300, split 3 ways: 1. Roots, 2. The Hartford Landbank, 3. Keney Park Sustainability Project. The motion was accepted, seconded and approved.

Pat Salner sent thanks for the club sending her to the NAL meeting. She will do an article for the Trumpet Vine and will meet with the Conservation Committee.

Conservation - Marnie Greenwood

On March 9th, Susie Barney, Margaret Szerejko, Pat Salner and Marnie Greenwood visited B.D. Provisions, a franchise retail store which sells food by bulk, in Newtown CT. Their mission, zero or low waste, is accomplished by eliminating plastic packaging through use of a jar exchange program or paper bags. Margaret is submitting a T.V. article. We are contemplating a field trip for GCH members to BD provisions and possibly including a visit to Newtown's recycling food scrap facility.

In preparation for Board Conservation Agenda please see link below. The Conservation Committee is asking the board to support forwarding Gov. Lamont's House Bill 6664; An Act Managing Waste and Creating a Waste Authority to all GCH members and to contact their house and senate representatives.

We will be continuing our focus on waste management for next year. In April we will be meeting to review this year, meet with Pat Salner who attended the NAL and to discuss next year's plans which include the continuation of short presentations at program meetings.

Marnie did a report on the LOMI, an electric composter. She spoke with the company and the club will get a significant discount if 5 members buy one.

Motion: Marnie will present the LOMI to the club at the next general meeting and send around a sign-up to try to get 5 people to buy one. The motion was accepted, seconded and approved.

Visiting Gardens - Brie Quinby, Susan Rathgeber

Brie and Susan announced a trip to Sleepy Cat Farm in Greenwich (a 12- acre series of garden rooms) and Lee Garden in New Canaan (amazing azaleas) On May 9. We will carpool down. \$20 fee for the day and the trip is limited to 15 people. Sign up was passed around.

Ways & Means- Mem Morrissey, Katy Sargent

The first Ways & Means committee meeting was held Thursday March 9, 2023 via zoom

Date and Location of the 2023 GCH auction: Thursday November 16, 2023; The Hartford Golf Club

We have scheduled a walk -thru a month from now when new HGC banquet manager is in place

Auctioneer: Will again hire John Bates as auctioneer. Katy and Mem to help with crowd control if room becomes too loud as happened at the 2021 auction

Theme: Suggestions will be tied to major project choice - awaiting major project decision

Invitation and Save the Date: Design by Megan McCann Mixed Media. All invites and save the date will be sent electronically

Deadlines for Above: Save the date and begin thinking about Auction items over the summer- to be promoted in the Trumpet Vine and at in- person meetings beginning in May

Donations:

GCH members need to be thinking over the summer of fabulous auction items! Discussed items that sell well such as wine, gift cards, Nantucket basket, trips, art, homemade items...

Table Decorations: It is anticipated the Floral Committee will be again providing the arrangements

Check out: Agreed to rehire Evan and discuss ways to streamline the process. Checks only at this time. Possible Venmo/Zelle if Evan has ability to process.

Timeline for the evening worked well and we will most likely keep the same timeline as 2021.

Stress submission deadlines with full descriptions and photos to be used in promoting items.

All items to be dropped off at HGC at designated time prior to auction.

Printed Program (with bid numbers) will be printed for live items only. All other items will be published and promoted online before the auction numerous times.

There was some discussion about the auctioneer, and Mem asked the board to submit ideas.

Civic Projects - Katie Nixon

- iQuilt/Bushnell Gardens: Amy Schuster and I had a very good meeting recently with Jackie Mandyck from the iQuilt Partnership. She explained the

various holdups in progress towards getting this project done, including the mayor's opinion of the design. The mayor would like less hardscape and more sustainability/green space in the plan, which is all good. The very night Amy and I met with Jackie, the city was to vote on accepting \$750,000 from the State DEEP. This vote passed. That is the first step towards getting started. The second is the city council will then approve actually using the money for this project – that should happen by March 28. If that all goes through, Amy and I will meet regularly (at least every month) to see the project, and our contributions of trees, through to completion. Amy and I made it clear if these two votes don't go forward, we will pull out our promise of \$48,000. We think it will go through, and we also made it clear we need this completed by this fall, 2023.

- Using the remainder of our P4P money: We finally have a meeting on the books at the end of March with Mark Dowd and Ryan Grew, the new ex. Director of Keney Park. We will make a plan possibly to install some pollinator gardens near the Pond House. Stay tuned for a spring planting date to finish this project!
- Hartford Land Bank: We are still waiting to hear when the urban farmers are next going to meet so we can see if we want to be part of that initiative. HLB has been excellent about checking in to say they are still working on it.

The moral of all of this, I guess, is patience is a virtue! We feel pretty good we will keep these options alive!

Budget Discussion:

Claire and Kelly met last week. The sooner receipts can be submitted, the better.

Conservation asked about applying money from this year's budget to the making of a pamphlet next year. Claire suggested that they get it started this year; design work and some materials to use this year's budget.

Garden History and Design is planning to print photos taken this year, and the printing of the drawings may also be done by June 30.

Historian: Money for printing may not be necessary due to digital storage, although the Historical Society will not accept digital archives.

Horticulture discussed selling something, like maybe an apple tree, or a special hydrangea as was done years ago with considerable sales. Claire recommended a native plant (if a hydrangea: lace cap). Claire also suggested dwarf shrubs like sweet viburnum.

Trumpet Vine: The only expense is if it is printed which is not done anymore. The TV carries \$50 that isn't used. Lots of discussion ensued over whether we should be printing the Trumpet Vine for the Historical Society. Perhaps we should reach out to the GCA to see how they are archiving their materials.

Mary Ann Haar made a proposal that we buy some things that we are often borrowing from other clubs, people, organizations. She recently had 4 pedestals made for \$500 each. Would the club be willing to purchase these; they have many uses. Mary Ann will make a list of the ways in which the club would use them and present to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Shushtari

(Margaret Szerejko, Recording Secretary, was out of town)