

**Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2016
Redwoods, UC Botanical Garden**

President **Margie Murphy** welcomed the OGC members. **Louise Diracles** moved that the May, 2016 minutes stand as approved and it was seconded by **Midge Zischke**. **Margie Murphy** introduced our Guest Speaker, Janet Keeter, Orinda City Manager.

Ms. Keeter addressed the club on the status of the median project. There was a meeting of the Orinda Parks and Recreation commission on 9/20/16 to vote on the approval of Phase1 of the plan.

All 3 parts were quickly approved:

- Approving design
- Authorizing going to bid
- Accepting the OGC donation of \$45,000 to be used for the project

The pre-bid cost estimate is \$110,000. With the OGC donation of \$45,000 and \$15,000 from the Orinda Parks and Recreation, the City of Orinda will cover the rest.

There was discussion about which median area will be improved on in Phase One: Brookwood Rd. to Santa Maria Way. Phase Two is improving the medians from Santa Maria Way to El Toyonal. Tenaka Landscape Architects did the final landscape plan using the plan drawn up by our Shari Bashin-Sullivan. Ms. Keeter thanked OGC for their contribution towards the median project.

Also discussed with Ms. Keeter was the mini park adjacent to Theater Square. The land is owned by PG&E, which plans to remove the redwood trees there as the growth interfered with the electric lines above the trees. This removal is delayed until the final plan for landscaping is finalized. PG&E will cover the removal cost.

Sandy Barnett presented the Treasurer's Report for **DD Felton**:

Balance of Administration Account:	\$37,866.86	
Funds budgeted for 2016-2017:	33,406.40	
Uncommitted:		\$4,463.46
Balance of Contribution Account:	\$63,464.00	
City of Orinda Median:	-45,000.00	
Memorials	-4,000.00	
Uncommitted:		\$14,464.00
Funds budgeted for 2016-2017:	-\$20,000	
Funds needed for 2017-2018:	-\$20,000	
Fundraiser:	\$25,535.00	
CD:	\$7507.72	

Sandy Barnett explained that every 2 years, OGC needs a fundraising event to meet our commitments. Since the last garden tour was so successful, the club will host one again. She thanked **Louise Diracles** and **Marlene Hallenberger** for chairing the fundraiser.

Louise Diracles moved that “as recommended by the Board of Directors, each active OGC member shall be required to purchase four tickets at \$50 each for a total of \$200 as her Ways and Means fundraising obligation for the May 11, 2017 Tea in the Garden tour.” **Connie Leach** seconded her and a vote was taken. 48 active members voted “Yes”, and the motion passed.

Marlene Hallenberger and Louise Diracles reviewed available jobs that need to be filled in support of the spring 2017 garden tour, and suggested members email **Louise** with job preferences. They announced that **Catherine Watters**, an OGC honorary member, donated a watercolor of a peony that she had painted.

Nita Roethe reported that she is following up with Orinda Parks and Recreation on timing and size of 3 new trees to be planted at the Triangle Garden. On Monday, October 3, at 9:30 am. setting up the Fall display at the off-ramp will take place, signup sheet was passed. Hay bales, pumpkins, and scarecrows will be featured.

Lyn Garrett requests that members bring lots of greens and flowers to the next Bouquets at **Carole Wolfman’s** in October. **Jane Ryan** hosted in September.

Linda Thompson described our upcoming trip to Sunset Gardens at Cornerstone, in Napa, on October 6. Carpools leave from OCC at 8:30 am. and will include a docent tour and lunch. A signup sheet was passed.

Kirsten Whitsett reported on Penny Pines.

Jan Formanek compiled the new directories for this year, and made them available for the members to pick up.

Catherine Dunne informed the members that our guest speaker for October will be Andrea Wolf, speaking about her new book about Alexander von Humboldt. November 17 is our guest meeting with Soho Sakai speaking. The January meeting will feature in-house demonstrations; Victoria Kastner speaks at our February meeting about the Hearst Castle and gardens; the artist Michael Stehr will be with us in March; and Lady Katherine Astor of Kirby House, speaks to us about the gardens there and her family history on April 20.

Phoebe Kahl and Diana Kennedy have organized the Fall Floral workshop, at St. Stephen’s on October 18. Signup sheet was passed, cost is \$50.

Margie presented **Barbara Boster, Devon Sherwood, and Jan Formanek** with beautiful bouquets arranged by **Chris Stoneberg** as tokens of appreciation for their hard work.

Gail Emmons gave us an overview of the GCA flower show taking place at the Grand Hyatt in San Francisco on April 26-29, 2018. Gail is in charge of the flower show, and has a committee from OGC to assist her: **Heather Dunne, Nancy Dickmeyer, Diana Kennedy, Carole Wolfman, Joyce Nelson, Isa Mary Ziegler, Shari Bashin-Sullivan, Phoebe Kahl, Suanne Inman, Marion Bottomley, and Jean Rowe.**

Gina Field reported that Orinda Country Club as very helpful in approving and installing a bench overlooking Lake Cascade. The bench is a gift from OGC, and has a plaque which reads "A Gift for All to Enjoy".

Ruth Fortune asked **Lisa Jorgens** to let the members know that her husband, Craig Jorgens, is running for the Moraga Orinda Fire District board. Lisa told the group that they can contact Craig for more information.

Margie Murphy thanked Vanessa Crews for arranging the General Meeting at the UC Botanical Redwood Grove, and adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Schneider
Recording Secretary