

Orinda Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2017
Orinda Country Club
9:30 am Social, 10 am Meeting

Margie Murphy, OGC President, called the meeting to order, and welcomed the members. She explained that later in the meeting, there will be 3 workshops, to instruct and inform members about areas they may participate in during the GCA Annual Meeting, coming to San Francisco in April, 2018. **Margie** asked that the November, 2016 General Meeting Minutes be approved as emailed. **Yoni Mayeri** so motioned, and **Suanne Inman** seconded. Minutes are approved.

DD Felton, Treasurer, announced that new flower mart badges are in, and to see her if members ordered one. Current badges expire February 1. The club's financials are available online. She explained that the impact of Orinda Country Club's new decision to charge us for meeting space will need to be explored. She received applause when she announced that we received a grant of \$1000 from the Orinda Community Foundation, and a holiday party profit of \$1300.

Committee Chair Reports:

Judy Shallat reported that the holiday party was a huge success, and that the event ended net positive.

Bouquets was at **Lisa Jorgens'** lovely home in January, and **Shari Bashin-Sullivan** said that there was a great turnout.

Linda Thompson was thrilled to report the Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Refuge outing was very informative and a huge treat for those who attended.

Ruth Fortune presented the findings of the Merchandising team including **Ann Cinderey** and **Laurie Goetzl**, that the club may want to have vendors at meetings a few times a year instead of the club purchasing items to sell at our General Meetings. Discussion to be continued with the board. There will be a "garage sale" at the final meeting of the year, to sell leftover merchandise at a discount.

Lisa Jorgens informed the group that raffles have earned \$1050-a good average amount. She and **Pamela Stefan** will hold another raffle at the March meeting.

Catherine Dunne announced that on February 15, we have a joint meeting with Piedmont Garden Club, at the Piedmont Community Center, 10 am. Victoria Kastner, the Hearst Castle Historian, and author, will be the speaker.

Marlene Hallenberger and **Louise Diracles** gave an update on fundraising. To date, 35 members have submitted their checks, and were thanked. Realtor Melanie Snow has generously donated \$15,000 to the garden tour, and will be the exclusive realtor donor. **Louise** noted that the goal is to raise 2 years' worth of fundraising with this garden tour. It is hoped we can raise the additional funds needed with the party, marketplace and plant propagation sale, and auction.

Laura Sawczuk spoke about the plant propagation project. There will be a workshop to get the plants started on February 10, 12:30 pm at **Louise Diracles'** home. She requests that members bring hardened succulents for planting.

Communication Reports:

Vanessa Crews has applied on OGC's behalf for the Freeman's Medal, and we received an Honorable Mention-a huge honor. See her article in the FMN.

Pam Wiley, speaking for Bay Visions, announced that 3 members of our club are invited to attend an event at the Romberg Tiburon Center on February 22. She passed a sign up sheet around.

Lorene Quist reported for **Sandra Holland** that the deadline for Change of Status is February 1. **Betty Thompson** requests reinstatement to active membership. **Dena Raffel**, **Kathy French**, and **Pamela Stefan** will change their status to associate members next year, and **Jenifer Brunk** and **Judy Gray** will be sustainers.

Janet Riley added that the deadline to sponsor someone for new membership is March 15. She also reported that Mini Luncheons are coming up on March 23, after our General Meeting. Sign up sheet for hostesses and guests was circulated.

Lisa Stefan reported that a written ballot vote for Founder's Fund will take place at our March meeting, and results will be announced in May.

Janet Riley and **Gail Emmons** reported that meetings on the upcoming GCA Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Embarcadero, San Francisco, are ongoing. The event will take place April 27-29, 2018. There will be additional information announced next month. The members then broke up into 3 workshops, designed to educate members on areas open for competition at the annual GCA meeting:

-Floral Design, presented by **Heather Dunne** and **Mari Tischenko**

-Horticulture, presented by **Suanne Inman** and **Joyce Nelson**

-Photography, presented by **Yoni Mayeri**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Schneider
OGC Recording Secretary