

Orinda Garden Club General Meeting

Minutes, Sept. 25, 2014

President's Message

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President, Janet Riley. She thanked the members for their support and caring notes and commented that the sense of community within our club is so comforting. She expressed her appreciation for the beautiful rose bush.

Janet has been compiling the history of the Past Presidents' terms in order to honor them at the October general meeting. There will be a luncheon in their honor after the meeting. Please submit a check for \$25 made out to OGC. Members of OCC need to write a check also.

Nominating positions have become burdensome for the President as currently 37 positions are held by 57 people. This would benefit from a complete restructuring with a new bylaws proposal.

Visions of San Francisco is in the process of being dissolved. We will need to dispose of props, supplies etc. Also, OGC is due a cash disbursement.

Looking ahead for the year, we will have the Past Presidents' luncheon in October, and a tri-club meeting in February. In April, we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of "Bouquets" so please bring flowers, pruners to assemble our nosegays before the meeting.

The May General meeting minutes were approved as written.

Membership

Margie introduced two new members, Sue Berger and Margene Stahle, and their sponsors spoke about their wonderful accomplishments and their welcomed addition to the club. A gift of a GCA garden book was given to each new member.

Holiday Event

The chairwomen of the Holiday Event are Dayna Sayres, Susie Romak and Jane Ryan. The date is December 5 at Orinda Country Club and will have the same format with decoration of wreaths for "Wreaths around Town" at 9 a.m., Tea and Coffee for members and guests at 10:30 a.m., and then the Dinner and Party at 6 in the evening. New members and their sponsors will have the opportunity to display their table settings in the Loggia Room.

Treasurer's Report

Outgoing Treasurer, Lisa S. and incoming Treasurer, Sandy B. announced a change of banks to Mechanics Bank, which is non-profit centered. We will not have a savings account but will invest in a CD.

The Budget never had a line item amount in the Contribution Account to show actual earmarked donations remaining. The budget was revised to include the amounts of remaining donation balances. In the revised budget, some of the proposed budgetary amounts were not increased or were reduced in order to balance the budget. The previous reserve of \$7500 remains, with the use of these monies requiring board and membership approval.

Shari announced that the "Pot Project" approved last May by the Board was approved by the Parks & Rec Department this summer and the neutral tone planters will be delivered in early October to be

planted with drought resistant material, succulents etc. in the Crossroads area to replace the 1960s aggregate containers. The Pot Project is included in the revised proposed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the newly revised budget.

Ways and Means

Cathleen announced a Garden Tour the first week in May. She has lined up some beautiful gardens and is working to add boutiques, raffles, VIP tickets to raise more money. Soon she will be setting up committees. The goal is to raise \$15,000 or more.

Merchandise

Rhonda announced some new and exciting gifts. She is working with Chris Stoneberg to purchase R. Nichols candles and offer them at a discounted price. Also available will be hostess gifts, stocking stuffers, centerpieces for sale.

FMN

Petra reported that everyone should have received the first edition for the year. Please submit entries for the calendar by the 27th of the month. The FMN deadline is the 5th of the month.

Mayor's Meeting

Laurie Smith attended the Mayor's meeting and found that no one is in charge of removing outdated ads and printed materials. We can remove them as needed.

Prescription drop-off will be Saturday at the Police Department. Other events include Olive Fest on October 12, Orinda Foundation Event on Oct. 15, and a Mixology Class at Theater Square on Oct. 25.

Beautification

The off-ramp will be cleaned up and spruced up with hay bales and pumpkins. Margie has been in communication all summer with Cal Trans in an attempt to utilize the water source pipe adjacent to our section. At this time, Cal Trans is not permitting use of this source.

Photography

Cathleen mentioned that if anyone is interested in continuing i-phone instruction, please contact her. Also GCA is having a major flower show in Akron OH with photography show. Entries are due Oct. 16. Please contact her. In January there will be a workshop on how to prepare for a flower show with photography entries.

Bouquets

Jane W. has filled the calendar with volunteers hosting Bouquets. She reminded us that all are welcome to come to assemble nosegays for the County Hospital. She announced that we have new cans that won't rust with special labels for "OGC".

Visiting Gardens

Jackie Voigt announced two opportunities to sign up for next year. Scheduled are tours in Tuscany, Italy and Newport, RI. Please check the calendar and go online to sign up if you are interested.

She and June toured 18 beautiful gardens in the in Brussels and the Netherlands and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. She encouraged us to consider making these trips.

Speakers for General Meetings

Lisa and Linda have been working on a variety of wonderful speakers. In October, Ernesto Sandoval from U.C. Davis will speak about "Plant Hormones"; in November, a flower arranger, Lana Chernyovsky, will present "Trends in Floral Design"; in January, Andrea Wulf will present a history of "The Founding Gardeners"; in February there will be a Tri-Club event featuring Katherine Spitz on "Gardening Compatible with Water Shortage"; in March, David George Gordon from Seattle will speak about "Life in the Very Slow Lane"; in April Sam Hodder will update us on the relationship between GCA and Save the Redwoods.

Horticulture

Joyce N. announced that their October presenter is Brin from Piedmont Garden Club who will instruct on how to arrange a miniature garden. Please check the FMN for details. Also, she asked if the members were still interested in paper whites for Christmas and most stated they were. M.J. reported on "Partners for Plants", our joint project with Piedmont to restore the wetlands near MLK Shoreline and our first meeting is Sept. 30. Please sign up. All days are in the Calendar.

Ann C. and Linda T. will be attending the Shirley Meneice conference in Kentucky.

Conservation

Judy S. announced a field trip to Cornerstone in Sonoma on Nov. 19. This is 9 acres of garden designs, interwoven with architecture, sculptures etc. featuring many water-wise plantings. She is hoping for 12 people to sign up for a tour by the head groundskeeper.

Penny Pines

Pam W. reported that our Penny Pines donations are currently serving to replant an area called Angora, near Fallen Leaf Lake in Tahoe. Prior to that, our donations served an area "Sixty Four Acres".

Flower Arranging Workshop

Ruth F. and Catherine D. have many creative ideas to add to our calendar of workshops. They include many table arrangements, party favors, invitations, and place cards. The first workshop is Oct. 28 from 10-12 noon at Orinda Country Club for a cost of \$35. Please write a check to OGC and send to Ruth.

World Association of Flower Arrangers

Gail Emmons shared her recent flower show experience in Ireland and submitted an entry in a category entitled "Perpetual Motion". Having found a beautiful, twisted Thailand dried vine material, she traveled with luggage -filled materials and supplies to the event and won First Place in her Class. She expressed thanks to Shari for writing the report. Congratulations, Gail!

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Formanek