

The Virginia Beach Garden Club

Board of Directors Meeting

March 16, 2015

The Home of Lynda Strickler

Attending: Lynda Strickler, Joan Lyons, Lou Flowers, Mac Houfek, Mary Denny, Demaris Yearick, Emily Mills, Donna Eure, Donna Haycox, Molly III, Ann Crenshaw

The Meeting was called to order at 2:05p.m.

Officer Reports

Joan Lyons, Treasurer – The treasurer reviewed the February financial report noting that total General Funds stood at \$13,882.28 (including credits for the payment of dues); while Ways and Means stood at \$24,607.36. This totaled \$41,489.64, down \$1,926.16 from the January report. Joan then presented the proposed budget for fiscal year May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016. This began with the Operating Budget which included an estimated income of \$17,089. Total fixed expenses of \$12,739 were noted as was an estimation of \$4,350 additional expenses. Continuing, the estimated Ways and Means budget for the same fiscal year was delivered: the balance was estimated to be \$52,446.42 on May 1, 2015. Total fixed expenses came to \$27,594; estimated expenses came to \$600 and uncommitted funds came to \$24,252.42 for a total of \$52,446.42. Mac Houfek suggested that a speaker fund carry over year to year in order to accrue enough for a national speaker. The treasurer moved that the Board vote on the proposed budget. It was seconded and stood approved.

Demaris Yearick, Community Projects – It was reported that \$20,000 had been allocated for the coming fiscal year with approximately \$3,000 already earmarked for Mary's Garden and the Aquarium Wildflower Garden. This would leave \$17,000 for six, short term projects and two, long term projects. These projects have been reviewed and approved by the Financial Committee as follows: \$1,000 as a one-time donation to Buff's Garden; \$1,000 for a planting of winterberry and spice bush at the Adam Keeling House; \$1,500 for a planting of saltbush at the Brock Center to help protect the wetland area from pedestrian visitors; \$2,500 to continue work on the oyster bed at Little Neck Creek; \$500 for Hope House, an independent living facility for mentally disabled people, and \$500 for a greenhouse at Tidewater Community College. These projects total \$6,875.00 in funding leaving \$10,125 for the following long term projects: Vangarden, a place for adults with mental and physical disabilities where a substantial garden design has already been drawn – we would fund a small part of this more elaborate plan. The second long term project would be a reflection garden at Camp Grom, for the disabled, including wounded warriors. This is a project initiated by others, including The Virginia Gentlemen organization.

Ann Crenshaw, FFF Treasurer – Ann was pleased to announce the final proceeds of FFF to be \$24,230.41, a substantial gain from previous years. Ann also analyzed the sale's profit and loss distribution by matching income against overhead costs in each particular area of the sale. Pre-sales accounted for slightly more than \$14,000 while floor sales took a small loss. Roots and Shoots combined with Pollinators took in \$2,360 (Donna H. noting that education was the main focus) while Second Hand Rose netted \$2,202 after the cost of storage. Vendors were highly profitable this year accounting for proceeds of \$4,795. Ann was thanked by the Board for her analysis.

Linda Strickler announced, for **Latane Brown, Corresponding Secretary**, that a letter of resignation from Quill Ruffner had been received.

Molly III, Vice President – Molly reminded the Board that Wednesday's program with Bonnie Lawrence, from "Savor the Olive" would be a fun and informative meeting.

Tina Minter, Conservation – Tina reported the excellence of the GCA NAL day in Washington, D.C. and encouraged all Board members to attend in the future, if possible. She noted that attention was given to the importance of the national parks and that funding for them was not guaranteed, encouraging the club to write their representatives. She also mentioned that the issue of climate change was considered real, and pressing, at the conference.

Emily Mills, HGW – Emily encouraged all members to promote the GCV HGW by distributing leaflets and guides as well as by sharing the webpage online through FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM. The importance of purchasing tickets prior to the tour was stressed. She also reminded members that group tickets, Norfolk-Virginia Beach combination tickets, and state-wide tickets would be available. Concern was raised by members that tickets would not be sold at the homes, themselves. Emily assured the club that this was encouraged by GCV and that it would be a trial this year, not necessarily mandated for future tours by GCV nor VBGC.

Donna Haycox, Horticulture – Donna encouraged the Board to promote and attend the VBGC seed workshop to be held April 1. She also noted that there would be a link on the GCA website to our Zone VII meeting.

New Business – Lynda informed the Board that Betty Miles would be introducing the nominees for the GCA Founders Fund Award at the Wednesday membership meeting and that a vote would take place at that time. Joan Lyons commented that the sales and usage tax forms needed to be completed.

The President adjourned the meeting at 3:53p.m.