

The Virginia Beach Garden Club
General Membership Meeting
The Virginia Aquarium
September 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. Molly welcomed all. Cynthia Clement, Interim Director, also welcomed us and thanked the club for its many years of contributions totaling close to \$140,000. Margrit Corcoran gave the collect and the May minutes were approved. Molly thanked members for their garden club work over the summer and called for officer reports.

Officer Reports: Lou Flowers, Vice President, reviewed upcoming programs. Ann Crenshaw, Treasurer, announced that the account held a balance of \$47,402.32. Ann Malbon, Assistant Treasurer, has a balance of \$28,064 and said that the FFF was running smoothly. Twenty seven vendors have signed on.

Committee Reports: Audrey Parrott and Meredith Rutter, **Fall Flower Festival**, thanked all for their pansy sales and encouraged the club to use social media to get the word out for the October 4th sale. FFF times and logistics were reviewed. Margrit Corcoran called for more Second Hand Rose donations. Lee Trant and Kate Michaels said floor sales were shaping up with additions of forsythe pots by Kay Shiflett, Amaryllis bulbs by Jane Booth and garden art by Demaris Yearick. Nancy Freeman, **Horticulture**, announced that Kay Shiflett would be attending the **Shirley Meniece** conference in Omaha and that she and Jane Booth would be at the **GCV** Symposium September 26-28. Horticulture will be shown at the October, January and April meetings. Allison McDuffie, **Conservation**, reported that the 2017 nature camper, Ava Dobbs, enjoyed her experience and read a thank you note from her. Tina Minter concurred that she was a wonderful camper. E-cycling will take place at the Aquarium September 30. All were encouraged to dispose of paint cans and electronics safely. Allison also encouraged members to attend the Eleanor and Henry Watts speaker series at the **Aquarium**.

President Molly III: a proposed change to the bylaws, advocated by Mary Denny and Mac Houfek, which would change the voting procedure for a place on the Admissions Committee from a double slate to a single slate vote for candidates presented by the Nominating Committee was introduced. The reason is to prevent awkwardness for those who are not selected. Betty Miles offered an opposing view, for balance, suggesting that a double slate is thought to encourage diversity in admissions and that we must proceed with caution when changing bylaws. This is the only opportunity for members to vote on individuals. There was a discussion. Betty Sundin, Julie MacKinlay and Mary Whit Haycox voiced their support for the change. A vote by the membership will take place at the October meeting. The President noted that she would be distributing interest forms so it could be learned where members are interested in serving.

Further Business: Connie Owen and Demaris Yearick encouraged members to purchase the annual Lily and Rose collections. Becky Mason was pleased to announce that two flower arranging workshops will be held in November by Dana Parker and in March by Molly Ruegar and Linda Briggs. Julie MacKinlay then introduced the candidates for the GCV Common Wealth Award and read their descriptions. The club voted for the Nature Plant Landscaping at Paradise Creek Nature Park submitted by Elizabeth River Garden Club.

The meeting broke for lunch and was continued on the grounds of the Aquarium where Joan Stumborg introduced **HGW** 2018 "Life on the Lynnhaven". A short program by Dustie Bourgeois, Aquarium Horticulturist, on VBGC contributions to the Aquarium followed with a quick tour of several of our projects where VBGC was recognized. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Lou Flowers recording for Weege Mantz, Recording Secretary