

GCCC Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2021
Chevy Chase Village Hall

30 present, 12 absent.

All members present except for:

Jennifer Albrecht
Susan Benninghoff
Lindy Dixon
Michelle Dolge
Angela Lancaster
Margie Leachman
Elizabeth McAdam
Molly Morris
Elissa Powell
Schuyler Ryon
Nancy Ridgway
Meg Stillman

GCA Flower Show Committee

Marion Ballard and Tia Lotuff updated us on where to find a sample schedule (GCA site>Flower Show>sample schedule), which outlines the six divisions (four are required). Our schedule is on track to be completed by December. Committee is deciding between Education and Conservation divisions; focus will likely be on healing gardens. Polly Sturm/Conservation explained there is a natural fit between healing gardens and healing the environment. (She is working with Cathryn Clune to create educational posters on healing gardens for Walter Reed fundraising efforts.) Cover art is needed for the GCA Flower Show, to be held Tuesday, April 26, 2022. A large exhibition on Alma Thomas, an artist featured on the Flower Design schedule, is now open at Phillips Collection until January 23, 2022.

Civics Committee

Bea Cope updated us on efforts to care for the Betty English Garden. On November 8, 2021, she, Julie Maner, Ginny Leachman and Pam Perkins worked together to ensure that ivy, bushes, and more were cleared (cost \$1600). Mulch to come.

Holiday!

Our program following the monthly meeting on Dec. 7 will involve wreathmaking (10 spaces) and holiday arrangements (15 spaces) in the Village Hall. All supplies provided, except for containers for arrangements. \$25 charge. Sign up will be in November Newsbud.

Decorating the Village Hall with Elayne Bennett. Simple, simple! December 1, noon (Date since changed to Dec 6th). Come fluff a bow—new ones arriving soon from Southport, NC.

NCCF

JoJo Spallone updated on efforts to support 13 families (25 children). All 13 pillows and comforters have been assigned, and bags were distributed. Please deliver on Dec. 13. Several stockings still needed; sign-up passed around. Suggestions for stockings: \$25 gift card, VISA only. \$100-\$125/child total, including gift card. Toys, warm items (sweatshirts, Snuggies, gloves, hats), crayon sets, etc. Please keep gender neutral because needs change at the last minute. Battery-operated toys are discouraged. Plan to drop off in large holiday bag if possible. Also to be collected on Dec. 13, delivered Dec. 16.

GCCC also delivering dinner Dec. 16; need food and money donations. No party this year, dinner instead: 60-70 people expected on December 16 (25 kids,). Suggested menu from Lisa Sanders et al. includes Chick Fil A nuggets, honey-glazed ham, mashed potatoes, mac 'n' cheese, cookies. Healthy foods (fruit or vegetable tray) also welcome. Please email Bea with ways to contribute.

Conservation

Polly Sturm talked paper towel addiction and ways to use reusable towels instead.

Bulb Sale

Thank you to Schuyler Ryon who handled the bulb sale. Pre-orders are on site. Nancy Caffey is accepting checks, Venmo, and cash.

Walter Reed Healing Garden

Catheryn Clune announced that more than \$71K was raised at the Sept. 30th event. Next step is Architect Woltz visiting Walter Reed. Need one more approval before Woltz's team comes. Lower level hospital commander has approved, but now Naval commander must also approve. Change of command and recent bomb threat have slowed this process.

General announcements from Julie Maner (President)

Two 2023 Garden Tour Chairs needed now, so they can begin finding gardens, and garden owners can plan their landscaping. Consider whose garden would be a good addition.

Hosting duties for meetings discussed. Need volunteers or Julie will assign with a schedule. Given the 20-40 minutes and two outlets needed for percolators, take-out coffee seems preferable.

Sadly, Lindsey Rupp passed away last Wednesday. Service is Thursday, November 18, at 11 a.m. at Christ Church, Georgetown, with a reception following at the Chevy Chase Club, 1-3 p.m. Joseph Gawler's funeral home will host a viewing the night before.

Survey is coming regarding \$20K donation. Three major recipients of our donations historically:

- 1) Chevy Chase Circle (Valerie Grace and Lisa Sanders, liaisons of Friends of CCC, made a pitch for funds needed)
- 2) Walter Reed Healing Garden
- 3) Betty English Garden

Smaller donations have been made to:

Audubon Naturalist Society (Mimi McBride made a pitch for this organization, because it also educates future generations).

Friends of the National Arboretum

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

US Botanical Garden

American Horticultural Society

Everyone will get three votes, which can be cast separately or all in one place. We hope to announce decision by Giving Tuesday, November 30th! (Postponed to end of year.)

Meeting was adjourned and Zoom program was offered by landscape and floral photographer, Lori Lankford.