

**Minutes of Friends of the Garden
November 11, 2010**

Board Members Present: George Deatz, Dr. Bob Kipfer, Gail Wright, Kauleen Volentine, Don Akers, Carla Beezley, Susan Boswell, Patrick Byers, Bob Childress, Christine Chiu, Major Close, Lee Coates, Dr. Stan Horsch, Kenny Knauer, Sharon Owings, Peggy Sauer, Gabrielle White, Ruth Arneson, Cindy Baird, Dorothy Brunskill, Bill Roston, Tom Lakowske, George Freeman, Jeanne Duffey.

Guests Present: Scott Cunningham, Larry Wegman, Peter Longley, Brenda O'Connor, Tina Gunnels, Linda and Dow Whiting, Lisa Bake rink, Marthe Close, Dick Brunskill, Joe Kleiber, Sylvia Lankard, Ruth Keeling, Ruby and Ed Miller, Kim and Randy Hutter, Carol Calton, David Lund, Tim Siebert, Wanda Simpkins, Avis Holloway, Jana Belk, Steve and Linda Kittle, J. J. Averett, Janet Wreath, Mary Pat.

Minutes: Gail distributed the October minutes by email. Ruth Arneson moved to accept; minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kauleen distributed the October treasurer's report by email. Ruth Arneson moved to accept; report was approved.

Guest Speaker: Our guest speaker was Larry Wegmann who is the President of the Southwest Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society. Larry lived in St Louis for 25 years and was active in the Society there. He moved here 4 years ago and found there was no group active here. When Larry met Mike Skinner, a retired botanist from the Nature Center, discussion began and as of March of this year the local group was formed. There are now 2 or 3 dozen paying members, with 135 on Facebook, and 85 on the email list. Dues are \$10 for the State and \$5 for the local group. They meet in the Botanical Center on the third Thursday of the month fro 6-8 pm. They have adopted the Wildflower, Native Shrub, and Rain Gardens. They plan to start a glade on the south side of the Wildflower Garden; Larry has already planted asters in the Rain Garden with plans to add more plants appropriate to the site at a cost of \$400.

Guest Speaker: Tim Siebert was our other guest speaker. He is the County Director for MU Extension and reported on the funding issues. They have been tapping into their emergency reserves and have only 2 years of funding left. Funding from Greene County was down 72% from last year. If the local Extension Center were to close, 6 Specialists and two clerical support positions would be lost. There would be no support for the Master Gardeners who donated 14,000 volunteer hours last year. Many other services would be lost and Greene County would forfeit about \$450,000 in direct MU Extension support that benefits the residents of our community. The budget meeting is scheduled for Monday November15 at 3 pm and George encouraged everyone who to attend if possible and to write letters to the County Commissioners to support Extension.

Nominating Committee Report: George Freeman, who is the chairman of the committee, reported that the following FOG board members have agreed to serve for next year.

George Deatz President
Christine Chiu Vice President
Gail Wright Secretary
Kauleen Volentine Treasurer

Sharon Owings nominated Jeanne Duffey for Vice President. Officers will be voted on next month.

Butterfly Operations Group: Scott Cunningham thanked Jeanne for the news release. 15,332 visitors came through the House last year. Over 4000 visitors came through during the grand opening of the Botanical Center and most were first time visitors. Donations were down for the year. Scott recognized Docents Lisa Bakerink, Steve and Linda Kittle for their total of 115 hrs volunteering in the House. There are now 29 Docents trained. The Butterfly House opens 5/14/2011 and the Butterfly Festival is set for 7/16/17.

Development Committee: Susan Boswell reported that the stained glass is ready to be installed. The Donor Board is being redone so the names can be read and will be completed by Thanksgiving. The Committee is meeting at 9 am on December 7 to plan for next year.

Membership: Kauleen reported membership was 606 at the end of October. Donations, memberships, and bricks were received. Kauleen passed out reimbursement forms and rules for the FOG office. She will be here on Thursdays; all of the treasurer's material has been moved to the FOG office. She will write checks the 2nd and 4th week of the month.

Publicity: George Freeman reported that the Winter FOG newsletter would be out in December. Any suggestions need to be in by the last day of November. Jeanne is working on 2 new releases.

The new FOG website is still in progress with 20% completion.

Garden Committee: Bob Childress reported the following.

The Conifer Garden is complete except for irrigation and needing more mulch.

The Azalea Garden is being designed by Dow Whiting and maybe will be started this winter. Dow and Linda have donated the plants and Ruth Arneson is funding the garden.

Bill Roston and Gail are working on a design for a Winter Garden and hope to have it done by spring.

Katie is redesigning the Entrance Garden. It will be the Garden of Life.

Mums left over from the grand opening have been planted across from the Grass Garden.

The Native Plant Society has adopted the Rain Garden. A motion was made to approve the expenditure of 400 dollars for the Rain Garden sponsored by the Southwest

Missouri Native Plant Society. George Freeman moved to accept; the motion was approved.

The stonework by the waterfall and paved area on top in the Hosta Garden is being renovated. A bid to use concrete paving to simulate flagstone has been received. The cost is \$4500 and the Hosta Society is being asked to share the cost. A motion was made to approve the expenditure of 2250 dollars for the surface pavement for the Hosta Garden contingent on the matching funds from the Hosta Society. Kenny Knauer move to accept; motion was approved.

The Laser engraver to make plant labels was demonstrated on Tuesday; everyone was favorably impressed as it could be used for many purposes and can be used on many different surfaces. The cost is \$12,000 and could be shared with other groups; grant money is another possibility. Peggy Sauer, Lee Coates and Bob Childress are looking into this.

Bob thanked Dorothy Brunskill for agreeing to be the Coordinator for Volunteers, which will really help him.

George Deatz reported the Botanical Center needs volunteers for tours and working behind the desk. Let Katie know; she has scheduled another training session on 12/4.

Anyone can serve on a committee, so let George D. know if you are interested.

FOG is waiting on the ok from Sister Cities for reimbursement for members during the Japanese Fall Festival.

Peter Longley reported on the River of Life-the geese have eaten the wheat seeds. He is checking into a repellent spray for the geese for next year. 690 people participated in the project; George thanked Mimi for an outstanding job.

Lee needs a speaker on groundcovers for March; let him know if you can help.

Patrick Byers announced that Level I training for Master Gardeners will start in January. There will be 10 classes meeting on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-4. There will be room for 50 people.

Dow Whiting thanked everyone that came out on the workday last Saturday to put the garden back together after the flood waters washed it away this year.

George thanked everyone for coming; the next meeting will be on December 9.

Meeting adjourned 0610.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Wright, Secretary