

**Minutes of Friends of the Garden  
December 9, 2010**

**Board Members Present:** George Deatz, Dr. Bob Kipfer, Gail Wright, Don Akers, Susan Boswell, Bob Childress, Christine Chiu, Major Close, Kenny Knauer, Heather Parker-Reece, Gabrielle White, Cindy Willis, Dorothy Brunskill, Tom Lakowske, George Freeman, Jeanne Duffey

**Guests Present:** Joe Kleiber, Linda and Dow Whiting, Ruby and Ed Miller, Peter Longley, Katie Steinhoff, Scott Cunningham, Avis Holloway, Marthe Close, Wanda Simpkins, Anne Schubert, Lisa Bakerink

**Minutes:** Gail distributed the November minutes by email. Bob Childress moved to accept; minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kaileen distributed the November treasurer's report by email. Bob Childress moved to accept; report was approved.

**Guest Speaker:** Betty Jane Turner with the Gray-Campbell Farmstead spoke about the farmstead and its role as a stakeholder in the Botanical Gardens and Complex. She explained their program with 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the Social Studies curriculum with Springfield Schools. They emphasize the history of Springfield and the way people lived during Civil War times. The house on the farmstead was built in 1856 and was restored by volunteers with donations of time and money. Twice a year in spring and fall the 5<sup>th</sup> graders visit to see how people lived and grew their own food. They rotate through 5 stations for 30 minutes each. Help is needed with the gardens and with the children's visit. They would need 4 or 5 people per day for 3 hours for 6 times in spring and fall. They want to make the garden program meaningful. Future plans include building a smokehouse and moving the Liberty School to the site. Anyone who can help contact George Deatz or Betty Jane.

**Election of Officers:** George Freeman passed out the ballots with the slate of officers and he and Katie counted them. After the votes were counted the slate was approved, with George Deatz as President, Christine Chiu as Vice-President, Kaileen Voluntine as Treasurer and Gail Wright as Secretary. A new nominating committee will be started in March as many members will be going off of the FOG Board next year.

Dow Whiting brought the plans for the Azalea Garden for everyone to see.

**Development Committee:** Susan Boswell reported that they are planning future events; there will be sheets for volunteer opportunities passed out at the January meeting. The dedication for the Library and the Stained Glass Window will be the last weekend of April. The Library will be located in the boardroom area; let Susan know about any recommendations for books. Jeanne Duffey will be taking over the committee in January, and she is happy to be in FOG after her retirement from the library. She will still be working on news releases. Susan has enjoyed working with the people on the committee and glad to be a part of FOG. Major thanked Susan and presented her with flowers.

George D. also thanked Susan for leading the charge in fund raising, and for funding the Library from her trust. The committee has written a new Mission Statement now that the building is completed. The new revision is to “inspire the discovery, understanding, and appreciation of nature by creating and maintaining gardens at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park and by supporting the mission of the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center and Park Board.’ Bob Kipfer moved to approve, and the motion passed.

**Membership:** George D. reported there are now 600 paid members. He encouraged everyone to tell a friend and reminded everyone about gift memberships.

George Freeman reported that the Winter FOG Newsletter will be out next week and will be in color. There will be 5 issues or the Greene Magazine next year.

**Publicity:** Jeanne Duffey is sending out 2 news releases-one for the wreath-making workshop with Katie on December 11 and one for Santa and Friends on December 18 and 19. Kenny will try to get them on the air.

George D. reported that the FOG website is still under construction by R J. Contact him if anyone has news.

Jeanne asked if anyone had a plant to feature in the booth at the Lawn and Garden Show in February to get people out. FOG will share with the Master Gardeners.

Katie reported that the Center is now 2 months old and thanked FOG members. She also thanked the Ozark Garden Railway Society and the Historical Railway Society for the exhibit in the atrium. December 18 and 19 the staff will be in costumes for Santa and Friends. Events include storytelling, cookie decorating and ornament making. She would like to have events to encourage people to come out all year long.

Cindy Willis reported that the Butterfly Committee would start in late January. She will be sending out ‘what’s going on the garden ‘ and sending it to George and Katie for the event calendar.

FOG will partner with the Master Gardeners in a booth for the Lawn and Garden Show and will need volunteers.

Peggy Sauer is working on grant writing.

**Garden Committee:** Bob Childress reported the following.

They are still working on power for the Conifer Garden

The Hosta Garden is cleaned up and the paving is done.

The Azalea Garden is planned for next year.

The Winter Garden is being designed-it will be located SW of the building.

The Entrance Garden is being redesigned.

A brick walk is planned for the Cercis Garden and bricks will be sold.

Mike Shade from the Botany Shop has donated Princeton Elms.

Dorothy Brunskill will be the Volunteer Coordinator.

George suggested that The Botanical Center could be nominated for the Best of the Ozarks vote in 2 categories-Place to Take the Kids and Springfield Attraction.

The FOG embroidery logo has been transferred to Upward Embroidery 1237 E. Republic Rd. Their work is good and their prices are less. Ruby asked about getting hats with the FOG logo; Heather Parker-Reece will gather some information on this.

Don Akers voiced a concern about the Greene County University Extension funding. He remarked that they are essential to provide information to the public and encouraged everyone to think about how important they are.

Bob Kipfer moved to adjourn: meeting adjourned 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Wright, Secretary