

## Minutes of the Friends of the Garden

May 12, 2011

**Board Members Present:** Don Akers, Ruth Arneson, Cindy Baird, Susan Boswell, Dorothy Brunskill, Bob Childress, Christine Chiu, Major Close, Lee Coates, George Deatz, Jeanne Duffey, George Freeman, Nancy Hopkins, Dr. Bob Kipfer, Kenny Knauer, Tom Lakowske.

**Guests Present:** There were 9 guests present.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Kauleen distributed the April treasurer's report by email. Bob Kipfer moved to accept; the report was approved.

**Guest Speaker:** George Deatz introduced Ric Mayer, Friends of the Garden member, Missouri Prairie Foundation member, as well as Head of the Ozarks Greenways Trail maintenance. Ric gave a history of the Kickapoo Edge Prairie Garden and explained that this garden is actually on the edge of the original Kickapoo Prairie. While the Kickapoo Prairie pre settlement actually covered 1/3 of the state, today covers only 1/2 of 1 percent. As an educational tool it is an Ecosystem and very beneficial in medical research. Each year from 2005 through 2010 the entire garden was burned to stimulate the prairie grass and help with weeds. In 2011 half the garden was burned in order to assist the wildlife. The Missouri Prairie Foundation originally organized to save the Prairie chickens, (of which there are now only 200 in existence the state of Missouri), later becoming involved with saving the prairie grasses.

**Development Committee:** Jeanne Duffey reported this committee came up with lots of ideas for new member packets. A news release on the Butterfly House opening and an ad in the June News & Leader Weekend Magazine, urging Junior League members to volunteer has been sent to be printed.

George D. reported that we now have 728 members the goal is to have 1000 before the years end and asked everyone to invite 1 person to join.

**Publicity:** George F. reported that the Greene Magazine is about to go to press. George D. stated that we are blessed to have our Newsletter in the Greene Magazine and wanted to thank George F. and Mike Noggel for their generosity.

Kenny K. reported: Still working with Jeanne D. on the Butterfly House and Christine C. on Young Sprouts for publicity. Volunteers continue to be needed for both.

George D. stated our website continues to be worked on by RJ. Jacobs, when he has time. Please let George D. know of any items or information needing to be added.

**Speakers Bureau:** Lee C. stated nothing new to report at this time.

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

A work group from Expedia created a mulch walk between the Redbud and Azalea Gardens and they also mulched the Native Shrub Garden.

Ed Miller has completed the power installation in the Dwarf Conifer Garden and the pump is now operating. Lee C. brought in plants for the garden, Ruby M. and Kim Hutter planted them.

Gail Wright has purchased some of the plants for the Winter Garden and the topsoil has been ordered.

The irrigation has been installed in the Azalea Garden; plants for this garden have been purchased, and will be planted and mulched in June.

Carolyn Tripp has pruned and mulched the Shrub and Viburnum Gardens.

The Hosta Society and volunteers have planted over 100 new hostas and several hundred annuals in the Hosta Garden.

Carla Beezley and the Pink Dogwood Garden Club have planted new perennials and annuals in the White Garden.

100 flats of annuals were purchased at the Versailles auction and have been planted.

There are martins in the Martin House.

The Butterfly House now has butterflies in the house and the garden is being planted. Lantana plants will arrive this Saturday and will be planted that day. Directional signs are being installed. House opens on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Installation of the irrigation for the expanded Wildflower Garden is authorized and waiting for Parks to clear out the undergrowth.

The Iris Garden is in full bloom.

Cindy Baird and volunteers have planted annuals in the Peony Garden, which is now in full bloom.

Need approval for Winter Garden funding estimated at \$5,000. Bob Kipfer made the following motion: Move that we proceed with the creation of the Three Teardrop Central Section of the Winter Garden at the estimated cost of \$5,000. George Freeman seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

The Musgrave Foundation did not agree to fund our project to purchase a laser printer. The following motion was made by Bob Kipfer: Move that we purchase the laser engraver in conjunction with Master Gardeners, total cost of \$13,000, with our share being \$6,500. This is contingent on the Master Gardeners approval of their half and the Botanical Center's agreement to provide the security, supplies, signs and maintenance. Cindy Baird seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

George D. stated that we are able to accomplish this due to the fact we now have 728 members paying dues between \$25 and \$500.

Prior signs cost up to \$4.00 per sign, so the laser printer will save money.

Marthe C. encouraged everyone to let people know that donations are accepted.

Katie S. reported she is working with an artist to design mosaic features for the Entrance Garden.

**Butterfly House:** Scott C. reported that the Butterfly House opens May 14, as of now 300 visitors have visited the house, and with private tours the count will reach 700 thru June 10, 2011. There will be a new volunteer training class June 7<sup>th</sup>, time to be noted at a later date. Hannah has 17 corporate sponsors and numerous individual ones, with donations of \$2,856, for the Butterfly Festival. George D. asked everyone to give Hannah a huge hand for all she has accomplished. Scott gave kudos to Buck K. on Instar, who has brought in \$80 plus. At the Young Sprouts, the Friends of the Garden table will have a kite making event going on and volunteers are still needed. (The following individuals volunteered at the May 12<sup>th</sup> FOG meeting: Nancy Hopkins 9am-1pm, George Deatz 9am-1pm and Kenny Knauer 10am-1pm.)

Cindy W. has a group meeting sometime in May with Butterfly House volunteers. Date will be announced at a later time.

Katie S. reports new Volunteer Training class on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and training for the Butterfly House volunteers that evening as well. Velynda Cameron will hold a training class on how to work with children on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

George D. acknowledged Susan Boswell's daughter, Michelle Cook, who stood in for Susan during the dedication of the Library, many thanks to Susan and her daughter. Robin Coulter was at the dedication of the Stained Glass window, thanks to Robin for her beautiful work of art.

**Old Business:** Cindy B. stated that we need more Do Not Feed the Geese signs. Katie S. was asked to check with the Park Board on this. Katie said that the Park Board is buying the decoys to help with the geese situation.

Peter L. reported that the spray repellent seems to be working quite well. He stated that when taking groups thru the park, he makes a point of telling people that the geese are not our best friends. He recently saw some people feeding the geese and very loudly said, "We do not feed the geese."

George D. wants to thank Ed Miller again for all his work in getting the power to the Dwarf Conifer Garden. Now we need power in the Hosta Garden.

Marthe C. reported on the Nominating Committee, she now has several names, and asked that we please get in touch with her to add any additional names.

**Other Business:** George D. brought State of the Parks reports for anyone that would like one, and suggested it would be beneficial to read.

George D. reported that the County Commissioners meeting is this coming Monday, to determine if the ¼ cent tax renewal and the new 1/8 cent tax bill will get put on the ballot. Suggested we send emails as individuals encouraging the commissioners to add this bill to the ballot.

Please let Dana M. or Dorothy B. know if you would like to volunteer for anything.

George D. made a motion to adjourn. Kenny K. seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6.20pm.

Respectfully submitted

Dorothy Brunskill