

Minutes of Friends of the Garden

July 14, 2011

Board Members Present: George Deatz, Dr. Bob Kipfer, Gail Wright, Kauleen Volentine, Don Akers, Carla Beezley, Patrick Byers, Bob Childress, Christine Chiu, Major Close, Lee Coates, Kenny Knauer, Heather Parker, Mike Ward, Cindy Willis, Cindy Baird, Dorothy Brunskill, Dr. Bill Roston, Tom Lakowske, George Freeman, Jeanne Duffey.

Guests Present: There were 13 guests present.

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

Treasurer's Report: Kauleen distributed the June treasurer's report by email. Bob Childress moved to accept: the report was approved.

Guest Speaker: Rexella Bennett, the new president of The Springfield Area Herb Society, was our guest speaker. She shared with us some of the exciting things going on with her group. Membership has grown since she became president and there are now 59 paid members up from only 8-15 members previously. They meet every month on the third Tuesday at 6 pm at the Botanical Center. Programs may feature a guest speaker and they have 4 seasonal Edible Walks this year. A different herb is highlighted each month with exchange of recipes. Dues are \$12.00 per year; members receive discounts from areas businesses. Rexella brought handouts with recipes using herbs for cleansers, scrubs, and natural pesticides. She also brought membership information and the schedule of meetings for this year, which is listed on the FOG website and the society's Facebook page. They are a Parks Partner.

Development Committee: Jeanne Duffey reported that they are working on a gala for the Sensory Garden to be held later. They are planning a membership dinner in October, She prepared a news release on the Butterfly Festival; Kenny is the media contact. Cindy Willis has an interview with KSMU tomorrow.

Membership: Kauleen reported there are now 784 paid members; George D. has a goal of 1000 by the end of the year. Dues help with the gardens, and more members mean more volunteers,

Publicity: George Freeman reported that August 1st is the deadline for news to be included in the next Greene Magazine and the Fog Newsletter. The magazine can now be found in Wal-Mart next to Birds and Blooms and is now sold in 150 locations. Katie displayed the coyote for the geese problem; plans are to let the media know when it is set out.

Bluegrass Festival: Kenny reported that he is thrilled that the festival is combined with the Butterfly Festival this year. The bands will perform down in the shady area; people should bring lawn chairs or quilts to sit on. Smillie's is getting the bottled water at a good price. The signs will be put up tomorrow. The two original bands will perform and a new group with some members of Boris Yelstin. The Young Marines Color Guard will be the first event in the music festival.

Speaker's Bureau: Lee Coates is back in town for 2 or 3 months. Let Lee know if you would like to speak on a topic.

Garden Committee: Bob Childress reported on the gardens and projects:

There has been a problem with hoses disappearing, possibly being borrowed and not returned. Bob suggested marking your hoses.

3 out of 5 video cameras have been installed; one by the Hosta Garden, one by the Conifer Garden and one by the parking lot.

The garden adopters are encouraged to coordinate the watering, as they can't all be turned on at the same time.

The sprinkler controller will be installed in the Grass and Hosta Gardens.

The Preen used in the Iris and Peony Garden has cut down on the weeds.

The Phoenix Quarry has broken pieces of marble that could be used as paving around and in front of the Conifer Garden, The cost for these plus an arbor would be \$3000. Bob Kipfer moved to expend \$3000 to complete the "wedding area" and flagstones of the Dwarf Conifer Garden. The motion was approved.

If you are purchasing for the garden, turn in the invoice to Kauleen so that she knows what the expenditure is for.

Let Bob know about annuals for next year, as they are looking into having them grown from seed instead of going to the auction.

The laser engraver is close to being ordered; they are waiting on questions to be answered.

Butterfly Festival: Cindy Willis reported the Festival starts Saturday. There will be lots going on. They have bigger and better concessions this year. They are selling butterfly balloons and shirts. The flyer with the event schedule has a membership form included. There are 100 volunteers with help still needed for Sat. setup, Sun close-up, arts and crafts table, and the FOG table. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists are helping FOG. Two trams will be running, but the solar tram may not last all day. We have bathrooms and classrooms this year. Bob Kipfer thanked Cindy for all the organization and the packets that were sent to the volunteers.

Nominating Committee: Marthe thought everyone would be pleased with the slate of proposed board members for next year, plus some other ideas. Bob Kipfer and Marthe have been talking about the problem of getting someone to follow in George Deatz's footsteps as president. Under his leadership, membership has quadrupled and the gardens have doubled. When an organization reaches a certain level, expert help is needed the next step is hiring an Executive Director, but this is not in our budget to hire one. Bob and Marthe met with Jodie Adams, who thought it was a great idea, and insisted that George should be the first director. They then met with George who agreed to do this for now, but not for life. This would not be a full time position to begin with and parks would pay his salary. He would work under Parks and for FOG interests with Parks. The president's role would stay the same. Jodie will be at the September meeting to explain the concept to the Board. After a review of the bylaws, the proposed change will be brought before the Board next month, and then will be voted on in September; George encouraged everyone to contact Bob if they have any questions before next month, and also to be present at the next meeting to hear Jodie. Ric Mayer commented that this system has worked well with Greenways. A straw vote was taken and all approved.

Other Business: The Ozarks Regional Young Marines have made a major contribution with their volunteer activities in the Hosta Garden this year and in the Conifer Garden last year. Bob Kipfer moved to expend \$250 for services rendered in support of the Ozarks Regional Young Marines. The motion was approved with all in favor. The award will be presented to them after the Color Guard provided by the Young Marines at 12:30 during the Butterfly Festival.

There was discussion about being an Adopter Organization to assist the City of Springfield Strategic Plan in the Recreation and Leisure Chapter. Bob Kipfer moved to support the Springfield Strategic Plan Coordinating Committee as an "Adopter" Organization. The motion was approved with all in favor. George will attend their meetings

The Tour of Tables is scheduled for August 13; Peter Longley is working with the Evergreen Garden Club setting up tablescapes. Cost is \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door.

The Insect-O-Rama event is scheduled on August 19 at the Nature Center. Let Dorothy know if you can volunteer.

Cindy Willis brought T-shirts for volunteers working at the Butterfly Festival.

Bob Kipfer moved to adjourn 0622 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Wright, Secretary