

January MHGC Board Minutes 1/12/11

Present: Jones, Strona, Kissling, Quillin, Lawley, Edlinger, Moseley, Pehl, Borden, Bishop, Shelley, Fritschner, Costarakis

Absent: French

Meeting called to order at 5:08 pm.

Minutes for October approved as distributed.

Treasurer: all financials were submitted electronically to the board (with the agenda) and any questions regarding same will be addressed off-line.

Shelley asked what the budget is for the education committee, and stated that this line item is not on the budget sheets. *Moseley will check and find out what needs to be done to correct.*

Programs: Debra Lee Baldwin will be speaking on succulent container plants in January. February is Lynlee Austell on sustainable gardening. March will be an evening of information on some of the projects that the Garden Club does. April will be Randy Crow on grasses, and he will have species for sale.

Communications: Starr mentioned that some people think we shouldn't do the postcards, but should send electronically. The majority of the board feels the postcards are beneficial. There was a discussion regarding the size of the postcard, the font sizes, etc. Someone needs to verify people's names and addresses for the directory; we could also ask at that time whether people want to receive the postcards or would prefer to be notified electronically.

Suggested that Starr contact Kinko's to see what the difference would be if someone would do a mail merge for the addresses to cut the cost down for the postcards. Fritschner agreed to prepare the labels, so they get printer ready to Kinko's. Posters: Not sure what the value of the posters is, in terms of bringing in guests. Suggested that the posters be designed for 3 months, or a generic poster that doesn't show the dates, subjects. Jones will create the generic poster next month. The posters will be restocked from time to time.

Newsletters—attempted to sell at the party. None were purchased. Discussion regarding how many newsletters we should print, and what to do with them. Currently we print 50, and most get taken, but no one is interested in purchasing them. The possibility of getting a business to help underwrite the costs of printing and mailing was discussed. *Jones will add "newsletter available now online" on the postcards. Might be a good idea to demo the website to the members at a meeting. Newsletter will be specifically for guests at the meeting.*

Projects: Committee did the Christmas tree for December Nights at Balboa Park and donated the tree to The Cloisters. Spaghetti dinner for wounded warriors was a big success. Fed 85 service people. Washington Ibis triangle is complete; planted with California natives. Plants are small, but they will look good. Planters on Washington and Goldfinch are in place. They were planted with pointsettias; some of which disappeared. The planters will be replanted with a mixture of succulents that will hopefully be low care. D Quillin mentioned she saw kids digging in the dirt while parents were chatting; perhaps they should have plaques. Community Christmas tree was set up next to Olivettos, and is now in storage.

One of the hanging baskets was stolen (twice). It will be replaced but relocated. Projects is working on removing graffiti from the Reynard wall. The artist is consulting regarding the repainting of the wall.

Education: Shelley said committee is deciding how to distribute scholarship money. She is also working with the Crawford students to plan the March program for the GC.

Garden Walk: Jim Bishop has agreed to help co chair the garden walk, as CoChair Kissling may be moving away before the walk. The chairs are looking for a few more homes to be included. Next meeting is Saturday, 10 am at Espresso Mio.

Hospitality: Lease at church is ending after May, because they are doing repairs in our room. We can use the sanctuary. It might be worth calling up other churches, and Francis Parker. *Quillin will investigate and check with Pepper Sutton to see if there is a lease or contract.*

Wisteria Festival is in Sierra Madre March 13th. It was suggested that this might be a field trip for the GC. We would share the bus with other garden organizations.

Membership: 64 members, 3 guests at last meeting. There are 218 current members. There was a discussion regarding when or if to charge less for people who join later in the membership year. Left to the discretion of the membership chair.

Special Events: Discussed the dinner for wounded warriors, and whether we would want to continue to support the soldiers on an ongoing basis. Veteran's Village is a possibility. The Projects Committee is looking into what a project like that might look like. Costarakis is looking at another trip to Oasis in May, or a trip to see olive oil being processed in Temecula. Another possibility is a garden in Vista with a very interesting pond. Members agreed w. Quillin we should confine activities to garden as opposed to items like spaghetti dinners and stockings in future. Bev pointed out that Kiwanis & Rotary & other philanthropic organizations fill the non-botanical niche.

Old Business: none

New Business: Directory. Fritschner suggested that we get someone else to do the directory, since the original printer is occupied at present. One email should go out to everyone offering them an opportunity to opt out of the directory. Someone needs to contact those who don't do email and ask them if they want to be included in the directory. Quillin suggested that we do this at the meetings on a spread sheet. *Strona will print this out and have it at the next meeting.* It was suggested that we add pictures to the directory. *Fritschner will find out what it would cost to add pictures.*

Next meeting at Starr's. February 9th at 5 pm. French to conduct the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:35.