

## **Mission Hills Garden Club**

November 9, 2011

Board Meeting Location: Mission Hills Nursery 1525 Fort Stockton Drive 5:30 PM

**Next meeting: January 11 (Refreshments Skillman); 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the meeting; the refreshment schedule is as follows: January 11 Skillman, Feb 8 Pehl, March 14 Shelley, April 11 Wilson, May 9 Koch. (Please note, paper goods will be available at the nursery.)**

Present: F. Palafox, Koch, Shelley, Hartwell, Moseley, Skillman, Starr, Carter, Wilson

Call to order at 5.30 by F. Palafox

**Secretary.** Sabine Starr

Minutes from previous meeting are approved as distributed.

**Treasurer.** Carol Moseley

Report approved as electronically distributed.

One check needs attention. Ink has been paid to Stanley for printing from her own printer at home for the club; she resigned some 2 weeks later, board is okay with the expense.

**Programs.** Elaine Wilson

New chair Elaine Wilson. She picks up the ball in January.

November is handled. Fausto submitted his work so far to her.

Wilson will recontact all of the scheduled speakers.

November program is Diane Citrowske. No extra charge for members or guest passes, 20 \$ off the street. It would be great to put her in the middle of the room. We need someone to handle the raffle.

**Membership.** Lee Skillman

The label list has been done. It includes members and past members. The cards got out.

Meeting attendance, June 52 members, 2 guests, 54 total. Sep 37 members, 3 guests, 40 total, Oct. 24 members, 0 guests, 24 total. She is still working on renewals. Total. June: 7 new memberships, (4 indiv., 3 couples, 10 people total) - compared to last year = 12 total renewed 133, 115 individuals, 18 couples, current paid memberships 152, 174 people (compares to 215 people last year same month).

Skillman distributed a revised membership form at the meeting. The form is approved. Our website person Steve will work it into a fill-out version for the website. Fausto wants some at the store and at some other businesses. The form should also go to Meredith. Hartwell thinks that all businesses in Mission Hills should be Garden Club members. Moseley reminds Fausto to join BID and MHTownCouncil, Moseley asks Koch to supply a list of everyone where they planted trees. Their name could get on the website as an incentive.

Membership cards for couples have two cards with each both their names. Skillman points out that the couples like that, she gets great feedback. Skillman want the board members to check on pending renewals and talk to the ones they know. The ones who said why they are not renewing, are not on the list.

### **Communications.** currently open

Linda Stanley resigned because of personal reasons. The Evites she did were great. Her posters were beautiful, did the formatting of the postcards. Those 3 areas are to fill. Fausto encourages the board members to talk to members to fill the position.

Skillman mentions to ask our website person to step in as a favor. Starr remembers that he charges for even little changes. Fausto will ask Meredith French if she would do the Evite.

### **Community Projects.** Jeff Koch

Pennies for Pines went through.  
Grant Market garden got funded.

Pioneer park turns into a dog park. There are unleashed dogs. Animal services enforces the leash laws, signs are there. A suggestion would be to write to the Town Council. Koch wrote a letter. Also, go to Faulcner's office.

T. Palafox donates christmas trees, Shelley organizes it.

### **Education.** Mary Shelly

GC will install the MH Holiday tree on Sat. Nov. 26th at 10 am. Shelley asks French to do a n e-blast. Help is needed to put the tree up. Official tree lighting ceremony is on Dec. 14th, at 7pm. Events around it begin at 5 pm. MH BID organizes it. Will go out in the eblast. It will be proposed to the BID to take over the tree and accessories. That way we would need a smaller storage space.

Shelley contacted the Monarch school - they will be moving and will be recontacted next year. Gompers school has special needs students. She has not heard back from them yet, will follow up. She also will contact Grant School and find out more from an education basis. Wilson suggests to contact Alice Birney Elementary. Thank you note came from Grant School. Skillman suggests to make it visible at the member meetings. Historical and current notes are already with our historian. Carter will select a number of nice ones. Shelley remembers a board at the church that already exists. It might be good to have a new one.

### **Garden Walk** (Tiger Palafox)

Fausto reports for Tiger. 5 houses have already confirmed. 1504 Ft. Stockton will allow a Proven Winners Demo. Initial talk with local designer and printer has happened. Goal is to keep the booklet on the coffee tables for a long time. Idea is to make it like a garden journal and use recycling paper instead of glossy paper, so one can write on it. That way it is more attractive to the advertisers. Shelley mentions that the president form the MH Artists will be in touch with Tiger about the route.

### **Hospitality.** Martha Pehl

Moseley asks Fausto to get a report from the board members who are not able to attend the board meeting.

### **Special Events.** Wally Hartwell

3 events since he has the position. His motto is nice setting, nice wine, nice hoer d'ouvres. Per event he spent 120 \$. Mostly because some parts were taken care of by hosts, etc. The attendance is good. Fausto suggests to say sth. about the Garden Club at these well attended events. It is a great marketing tool.

Wilson reminds that it has traditionally been a perk for members. Moseley mentions that it is our responsibility as board members to introduce ourselves and talk to non-members about joining.

Hartwell wants to make sure that expenses and fashion so far are in the interest of the board and that he will continue with that. Hartwell follows up with Joice Disraeli about the coffees in the garden that are planned. Hartwell mentions that the events don't need to be at a member's house. Non-member hosts are okay, garden related venue is desired.

Wilson asks about special events. Garden related special current events.

### **Old Business**

#### Storage

Still in process. Skillman spoke with Don Rudesill. The storage was approved, we may need less space, depending if the tree will be handed off to the BID. Storage needs some spring cleaning. Koch knows about how to get dumpsters. We are tabling it until January. We agree to pay Fritschner through January.

### **New Business**

Discussion about engaging the membership to participate and how to improve membership.

Wilson says the membership gets engaged by the club having events they like. Carter sees that we already do engage many people. People don't always join because they go to every meeting. Skillman would like to get reports from every event about attendance. Starr suggests a limited time membership drive.

Shelley suggests interactive programs. A mix of programs is to be considered successful. Starr misses the field trips and the hands-on events. Carter mentions a desert bus trip in the spring. Fausto wants to make sure that the members know about the mix of offers that we have for our members. Shelley reminds us that we have a number of new board members and are still growing into our roles.

Meeting adjourned at 6.55