

RECORDING SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The February 28th meeting of the La Plata Community Garden Club took place at Sacred Heart Church in La Plata. The meeting began at 7:15 pm. with a program on Alternative Gardening presented by Jane Grove. Jane began the program by showing a DVD from the Chicago Botanical Gardens . An overview of the 23 beautiful gardens located there included an Enabling Garden. This special garden was designed to meet the needs of children and adults of all ages and physical abilities. The garden featured raised beds with wide seating ledges, large containers, wide level pathways, pan beds, a vertical wall garden, and hanging baskets on a rope and pulley system. Jane also shared with members a variety of adaptive tools that could be purchased locally.

President, Dianne Shisler, welcomed guests and new members. Members were urged to pick up the new Yearbook inserts. Dianne thanked Mary Beth Chandler for getting the hall for our meeting. Five of our members were congratulated on becoming Master Gardeners. Dianne announced that minutes of the October meeting were available on the website. Melissa Leitner reported that as of Jan. 31st, the balance in the treasury was \$8,311.50. Dianne stressed that we need to be thinking of ways to raise funds for the continued support of the Star Memorial Garden.

NEW BUSINESS

Two changes to our current By-laws were proposed , seconded, voted on, and passed by the membership. Article IV – Dues, will now read , “Dues are to be paid by November 30th. for the following year. Beginning December 1, a late fee of \$10.00 will be charged.” Article VI – Meetings, will now read, “The club shall meet on the 4th. Thursday evening of the month, unless otherwise designated. There shall be a total of at least 9 meetings a year. A majority of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.”

The proposed La Plata Community Garden Club Budget 2008 was voted on and approved by the membership.

Dianne made a motion for authorization to purchase two tickets to the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. Cost of the two tickets is \$50.00. The motion was approved. We will raffle off these tickets at a future date.

Dianne reminded members of the District II Annual Meeting – March 14th, at the Comfort Inn in Bowie and the Federated G. C. Annual Meeting – March 25th, at the Suburban Club in Baltimore. Registration forms for both events are in the newsletter.

Sharon Suiter discussed plans for the Bus Trip on May 30th. The trip will include a visit to Maymont and Ashcroft Hall in Richmond, VA. Cost of the trip is \$65.00. This includes admission, boxed lunch and bus snacks. The bus will depart the La Plata Walmart parking lot at 7:00am. and return approx. 6 – 6:30 pm. Fliers for the trip were available at the meeting.

Dianne also reminded members of the Art Blooms at the Walters flower show April 3 – 6. See Dianne if you would like to participate.

Elaine Miller discussed plans for our Spring Luncheon which is to be held on April 26th. at Christ Church in La Plata. There will be a demonstration on making Spring Arrangements by Ann Ford of the Studio III Flower Shop in La Plata. Cost of the luncheon has not yet been determined.

Carol Raucheisen reminded members of the May 3rd. plant sale which is to be held at the old Safeway in La Plata. A sign up sheet was passed for members to sign if they are willing to help with this sale. We will again participate with the Charles County Garden Club in this sale.

Judy Ruth announced that there will be a general clean up of the Star Memorial Garden from mid March to mid April. An email will be coming out to members with exact times. Anyone who can help is urged to come. The new trellise should be installed by the first of May. Members are urged to let Barbie Walter know when you are and are not available to work in the garden. She will be compiling the new maintenance schedule soon.

Sandra Mitchell made members aware of a Pruning Master Class to be held March 1st. at Jefferson Patterson Park.

The next meeting will be held on March 27th. at the La Plata Firehouse. The topic will be “What’s New for Spring” and will be presented by Patuxent Nursery.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Refreshments were served before the program by the Host Committee: Sandra Mitchell, Mary Beth Chandler, Janice Clark, Randy Clark, Ann Gardiner, and Danielle Webber.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane E. O’Farrell, Recording Secretary