**The Providence Garden Club of Pennsylvania (PGC)**

**September 13, 2023 - Membership Meeting**

**Community Arts Center - Wallingford, Pennsylvania**

President Holly Porter called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

**PRESENT:** Anderson, Barr, Brady, Butler, Conroy, DeSilva, DeVries, D’Ignazio, D’Iorio, Floyd, Folk, Funk, Hafertepe, C. Hayden, Krogh, Kropac, Larson, Lee, Leonard, Noto, Porter, Ribble, Russell, Minnie Ullman, Wheeler.

* Thanks were given to Karen Krogh for today’s floral arrangement.
* Minnie presented the updated resource bulletin from GCA, and Holly noted that she has copies that will be distributed to each member.

**SECRETARY:**  Minutes from June 14, 2023 were approved.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Beth Noto provided a high-level overview of the proposed budget for the 2023-2024 program year. Total projected income for the upcoming year is estimated at $18,782.56 and projected total expenses are estimated at $18,777.00 resulting in an excess income of $5.56.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

* Physic Garden workday: PGC is scheduled for 9/28/23 at 9:30 am. Rennie Kucas is normally the lead for this event but had a bad fall recently and is unable to participate. The date cannot be changed due to planting plans, so four to five volunteers are being sought for the outing.
* PHS 2024 Flower Show: PGC will not be entering the 2024 Philadelphia Flower Show. Holly asked that members please be thinking about exhibiting in the 2025 show.
* Floral arrangements for meetings – members are hesitant to sign up because they think they’re not capable. Experienced floral arrangers are willing to partner with a newer member. .
* Minnie Ullman presented Stephanie Kropac with a GCA “Club Appreciation” award and shared the comments provided by PGC to GCA highlighting Stephanie’s willingness to go “above and beyond” in supporting club activities. A warm round of applause followed..
* Our next meeting will be held on April 12, 2023 at 10:00am at Plush Mills Senior Living. This meeting will host our annual Horticulture and Photography Show. As with all meetings an RSVP (Yes or No) is required.  Please let Rennie Kucas, Wendie Russell and Sallie Anderson know whether or not you are able to attend as soon as possible as we need to give our Plush Mills an accurate headcount for the luncheon.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:**

**Program for 2023-2024**:

* Susie Leonard presented an overview of the schedule of events for the 2023-2024 program year.
* Susie also provided an overview of PCGCA for new members. PCGCA joint meetings now being held every other year, and PGC is a co-host for this year’s meeting. The PCGCA Joint Meeting will take place on 11/1/23 at the Philadelphia Country Club, and members are encouraged to register by the 10/25/23 deadline.

**Corresponding Secretary**:

* Susie asked that all members check their program booklet; some copies are missing the “page 1” sheet (inside the cover, booklet starts with “page 3”). Members who have these booklets should contact Susie to get a corrected version.

**Plant Sale:**

* Carolyn Folk spoke regarding the 74th annual plant sale. The sale will take place on Friday 5/3/24 from 5 pm to 8 pm and on Saturday 5/4/24 from 8 am to 1 pm. New for the Friday evening sale will be the opportunity to purchase dinner as well. Zach’s food truck has been confirmed as a participating vendor, and Carolyn is also talking with Auntie Annies and a Mr. Softee vendor. All Chairs and Co-Chairs for plant sale committees have been confirmed. Carolyn will now be looking for additional members to volunteer to support sale activities.

**Fertilizer Fund:**

* Wendie Russell noted that the Fertilizer Fund appeal e-mail notice has already been sent to PCGCA members, but noted that some members apparently did not receive the notice. She also noted that the deadline for donating is Dec. 31st 2023 rather than Jan. 31st (as in prior years).
* Wendie encouraged all members to please donate in a way that allows PGC to get credit for all donations.
* Susie Leonard spoke about one of last year’s awardees that she had been in charge of monitoring: Magee Rehabilitation Hospital has a horticulture therapy program. In particular, she highlighted both a rooftop garden and a therapy room with plant beds and gardening activities that are appropriate for patient physical status (e.g., bed-bound patients).

**Conservation:**

* Carolyn gave a brief overview of advocacy nature of the Garden Club of America for the benefit of newer members. She then gave a brief overview of the GCA position paper on Waste Management. Following the overview, she shared information on the Nextrex plastic recycling initiative and encouraged all PGC members to be sure to recycle all possible products through this or a similar program.
* During the ensuing conversation, there was a request to possibly organize a composting workshop.

**Membership:**

* Minnie Ullman welcomed Karen Krogh as the newest PGC active member and presented her with member supplies d a gift of a native plant.
* It was noted that Katie D’Orio has moved to “sustaining” membership status (this change took place after the program year bulletin was printed).
* Minnie recommended that PGC members planning to change membership status review the by-laws to understand the difference between Active, Associate and Sustaining membership to align with the most appropriate status. She also clarified that all requests for a change in status need to be submitted to the Membership chair and President.
* The new address for Nancy Hayden is 535 Gradyville Rd., Unit 238, Newtown Square, PA 19073. Please update your member booklet accordingly.

**Civic:**

*Helen Kate Furness*

* Beth Noto informed everyone that on Oct 4th at 9 am, PGC will do fall decorating at the library; she asked members who could participate to please bring pumpkins and mums.

*Leiper House*

* Wendy Russell confirmed that the fall “clean-up day” will be held on 9/14 (tomorrow), and a sign-up sheet was circulated.
* Wendy would like to organize a group to strategize on what to do with bed by the driveway – current plantings are often destroyed by the deer.

**Photography**

* Several members brought their photos for the 10/11 club photography show to the meeting. Stephanie Kropac, show organizer, looks forward to receiving all remaining photos as soon as possible.
* The standard Club “Garden History and Design” position currently unfilled for PGC; Stephanie noted that one of the judges for October show is a GHD person who will speak to us in October about what that entails.

**Horticulture:**

* Lin Floyd encouraged members to consider exhibiting in the PHS annual flower show in one of the competitive classes. She specifically note the “pressed plant” class with a workshop on 10/11 (register on-line) and the “challenge plant” class with a 9/30 session at PHS headquarters. Sallie and Lin will be attending the challenge plant session and encourage others to join them.
* Anne Devries reminded everyone about the Club flower show at Plush Mills on 4/10/24 and encourages all members to participate. The show’s theme is “The Olympic Experience – Paris 2024” as an homage to the PHS 2024 flower show.

**Ways and Means:**

* Landscape plugs have been ordered by Sallie Anderson for the PGC 2024 plant sale. Sallie will host a “potting up” workship on Friday, Oct 13th at 10 am. She also suggested that Members bring any divided fall plants to be potted up for the sale. Pots and soil will provided.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

**Meeting Program:**

* Susie Leonard introduced the program speaker, Sam Hoadley, who is the Manager of Horticulture Research tat the Mt. Cuba Center. Sam spoke about the types of research being conducted at this site to identify “Knockout Natives” that will thrive in the mid-Atlantic region. Following the program, a delicious luncheon was provided by hostesses Stephanie Kropac and Beth Noto

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hayden

Recording Secretary