**The Providence Garden Club of Pennsylvania**

**October 11, 2023 Membership Meeting**

**Plush Mills - Wallingford, Pennsylvania**

President Holly Porter called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., welcoming all members and expressing thanks to the judges who are here today for the show.

**PRESENT:** Anderson, Barr, Butler, DeSilva, D’Ignazio, D’Iorio, Floyd, Fries, Frisch, Funk, C. Hayden, Krogh, Kropac, Larson, Lee, Leonard, Oetinger, Picher, Porter, Ribble, Russell, Standish, Minnie Ullman, Wheeler, Ziegenfus.

**SECRETARY:**  Minutes from Sept. 13, 2023 were approved with acknowledgement that many members had not yet reviewed them. Some revisions have already been communicated, and Carolyn will send revised minutes in several days that include all revisions received by that time.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT:**

Nothing to report this month.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

No treasurer’s report as Beth Noto was not present. Jan Frish provided an update on original investments. Original investments totaled $20,000 in operational monies; this pool now stands at just over $61,000. Original endowment funding was $9,000 and now stands at just under $34,000.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

* Holly reported on several upcoming events:
  + Shirley Meniece Conference on 10/18/23 (registration closes on 10/15/23): Participants will “tour” ten different gardens in Hawaii, hear from an Extension Specialist about wildfires, and learn from various directors of botanical gardens about the challenges they face in protecting gardens from climate change.
  + Magnolia Tribute Garden – Spring is too busy for PGC as a club, so we need to reschedule this volunteer event from the spring of 2023 to sometime in the next few weeks.
* PGC has been invited back to Elwyn’s campus for next year’s swag workshop, so we will be meeting again at Holly’s house on 11/29 at 9:30 a.m. for the 2023 wreath-making project. Elwyn is also considering creating a “tactile therapy” program on its campus. It’s possible PGC might be able to apply for a GCA grant to provide financial support. This opportunity will be researched further.
* One of today’s judges, Missy SanFillipo, is the Zone V Garden History and Design GCA representative and will speak to us briefly today about this role (a position which PCG has not filled for a number of years).
* The PHS annual 2024 flower show is seeking photography entries. Holly specifically asked members to consider entering Class 193, “Harvest”, with a photo of a Community Garden that may feature the members at work.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:**

**Membership:**

* Minnie Ullman welcomed Julia Fries as our newest provisional member and read Julia’s response to her invitation letter. Minnie and Carolyn Hayden will serve as Julia’s mentors for the coming year.
* Minnie also thanked Susie Leonard for informing her about the new GCA resource guide and Holly for ordering them. She distributed copies to members who were not at the last meeting.
* Today’s guests will be Linda Reed, who had expressed interest in PGC at the 2023 plant sale, and Gwen Kannapel, who is acquainted with Sallie Anderson and Lin Floyd. Heather Eyre also expressed interest during the plant sale, but Minnie has not been able to successfully contact her.
* A ‘coffee and cake’ gathering for provisional members and members who joined last year will be held at Minnie’s house on Nov. 3rd at 10 am along with Membership committee members. The group will be making bows for the Elwyn workshop.

**Sign-up sheets**

* Friday 10/13 at 10 am - potting up perennial plugs at Sallie Anderson’s for the spring sale; will last about one hour.
* Articstic workshop with Anne DeVries and Liz Garnett on 10/23 at 6:30 pm. Members will make small pumpkin centerpieces. $10 per member (bring money to the workshop).
* Physic Garden – only 2 members were able to attend on 9/28, so second volunteer date is 10/26 at 9 am.
* Leiper House workday on 10/17 at 9 am.

**Horticulture**

* Lin Floyd and Sally Anderson went to the “challenge plant” session for the 2024 PHS flower show. If anyone else is interested in participating, please contact one of them.

**Leiper House:**

* Next scheduled workday is Tues 10/17 at 9 am (rather than 8:30 am).
* Holly Porter noted that PGC has been asked to decorate the Dining Room for the holidays. Target set-up date is between Thanksgiving weekend and the beginning of the following weekend. A sign-up sheet was distributed.

**Fertilizer Fund:**

* PGC stands at 9th overall for participation rate (13 members have donated) and 4th for highest total giving. The deadline for donations is 12/31/23.
* The Fertilizer Fund supports civic projects throughout Philadelphia. It represents an extension of club activities which we fund, but do not necessarily actively participate in. PCGCA will meet next week at Christopher Ray and tour this Fertilizer Fund site. Interested members can meet up to leave Wallingford at 9 am for the 10 am meeting (which should be over by 12). Contact Susie Leonard if interested.
* Per the PCGCA website:

**Please donate in one of the following ways before December 31, 2023:**

* + **A secure online donation** that takes minutes to complete (log on to PCGCA website).
  + **A personal check** made out to PCGCA with the notation **Fertilizer Fund**and hand it to your FF Rep or mail it to our Treasurer, Binney McCague  at 1337 Nathan Hale Drive, Phoenixville, PA 19460 – please also indicate the Garden Club name if you submit directly to Binney).

**Conservation:**

* Carolyn Hayden presented an overview of the GCA position paper on Transportation and Infrastructure.

**Other:**

* Susie Leonard shared that in early 2024, a program at the Wistar center will feature Josh Coccano speaking on terrariums.
* She also reminded members about the 11/1/23 PCGCA joint meeting at the Philadelphia Country Club. Invitations have already been sent out via e-mail, and the registration deadline is 10/25/23. This is a social event with an educational speaker. The theme for this year is photography with Tony Rocco presenting “Photography Without Borders”. Members can register on the PCGCA website; the program cost is $30, and lunch is $35. PGC members are encouraged to attend and observe since we are the primary host at the meeting in 2025. There is a photography show with 3 entries from each club.
* Sallie Anderson reported that Mary Murray has moved to sustaining membership due to new work opportunities, and congratulated Holly porter on her recent degree from the PA Institute of Technology.
* Holly Porter acknowledged Sallie’s article published in the most recent GCA Bulletin highlighting the club’s focus on sustainability and elimination of single use products.
* Sally Wilson fell and broke her hip 3 weeks ago and required surgery. She is currently in the skilled nursing unit and would appreciate cards.
* Dolores Thomas is reportedly in good spirits, but her eye cancer situation is not good. She would appreciate cards as well.
* Lin Floyd shares that she attended a recent meeting at the Media Library with the Green Wagon group; this group places 4 wagons around Media filled with native plants that people can take. They are now looking to start a native seed program and hope to have a “kick-off” in early 2024.
* Missy SanFillipo spoke to club members about Garden History and Design (GHD). She shared that she has documented four gardens over the past fifteen years. Missy noted that GCA documentation efforts comprise 50% of the Smithsonian’ s archive of gardens. Registration opens later this month for first-ever GHD conference – see GCA landing page for date/information. Missy’s key learnings she shared:
  + Her pre-conceived notions about what it took to “document” a garden were wrong.
  + GCA is interested having documentation for practically any garden that is purposely planted and tended.
  + GCA wants to know the “story” behind the gardens, the traditions, etc…
  + The documentation preserves the history of the garden in cases where a garden “disappears”.
  + Garden documentation is key for researchers who work in the horticulture industry.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

**Meeting Program:**

Susie Leonard introduced Holly Merker who is a professional birding guide, author and educator with a background in art therapy. She currently uses birds and nature to deliver nature-base wellness programs for people of all ages. Holly is involved with the American Birding Association, National Audubon, and Hillstar Nature, among other organizations. She is a certified Nature and Forestry Therapy Guide, certified in Wellness Counseling, and the founder of the Mindful Birding Network. Holl is also the award-winning author of two books, and was the recipient of the 2022 Conservation and Education Award given by the American Birding Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hayden

Recording Secretary