**The Providence Garden Club of Pennsylvania**

**February 14, 2024, General Meeting**

**Wistar Center, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore Pennsylvania**

Holly Porter, President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**PRESENT:** Anderson, Barr, Brady, Butler, DeSilva, D’Ignazio, Floyd, Frisch, Funk, C. Hayden, N. Hayden, Krogh, Kropac, Leonard, Noto, Oetinger, Picher, Porter, Russell, Wheeler.

Special thanks were extended to hostesses Jeanne Brady and Susie Leonard.

**SECRETARY:**  Minutes from the PGC meeting on November 8, 2023 were approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND LETTERS**

Wendie Russell’s mother, Nancy Pirtle, sent a note of appreciation for the winter arrangement she received from the club following the Elwyn workshop.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Beth Noto highlighted the income and expenses for the month of January. Her detailed report can be found on the PGC Website. No income during the month of January; the only notable expense was $450 reimbursement for NAL conference registration. The club’s total financial resources are currently $120,893. Contributions for civic projects will be distributed next month as will annual dues letters.

**LEIPER HOUSE**

The next Leiper House workday will take place on Tuesday, 2/20 and will focus on cutting back ferns and removing ivy from the stone walls near the house. A sign-up sheet was circulated by Wendie Russell.

**HORTICULTURE**

Lin Floyd shared two updates:

* Communication from Taylor Arboretum: A report on dealing with ash borer was shared. The arboretum didn’t appeal for monies directly, but they are seeking grants to cover costs of treating ash trees to eliminate borers (vs removing trees).
* The Media/Upper Providence Library seed exchange has begun; the display was set up by a local girl scout troop using former card catalogue stands. They are looking for seeds from native plants in PA and other nearby states to be shared.

Stephanie Kropac provided an updated on the upcoming club flower show on behalf of Anne DeVries:

* Please see the program booklet for details on the show scheduled for 4/10.
* The general theme for this show is France, and members are encouraged to “buddy up” if they’re uncomfortable with exhibiting alone.

Stephanie also presented the 2023 annual club award for the Best Garden to Jeanne Brady.

**FERTILIZER FUND**

Wendie Russell shared that a total of $54,100 was donated in 2023.

**CONSERVATION/NAL**

* Carolyn Hayden presented the GCA position paper on native plants and noted the pending Senate and House bills related to this topic.
* She will be attending the annual NAL conference from 3/17 – 3/20 in DC. A meeting with Rep. Scanlon has already been scheduled; sessions with the two Senators are being set up as well. A list of the NAL speakers was circulated by Carolyn, and she encouraged club members to sign up for the virtual conference and attend any Monday sessions of interest.

**CLUB HISTORY/ARCHIVES**

JoDean DeSilva shared the following updates:

* Efforts are underway to digitize the many boxes of PCG historical materials.
* JoDean located a notebook of club records from 1931, and she read the minutes from the initial meeting of the club, held on 3/9/31, outlining the structure of the club leadership which remain consistent with today’s organizational structure.
* Sallie Anderson requested that anyone having historical club documents at their home please bring the items to Sallie’s house to be posted to site as appropriate.

**PLANT SALE**

* Carolyn Folk was not present, but others confirmed that planning is underway. The order for annuals has been submitted, and the list of perennials being finalized.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

* Holly Porter initiated a discussion on the prospect of splitting the Program Chair position into 2 positions – a Program Chair and a Directory Chair. The concept had reviewed/recommended at the most recent Board meeting. KH offered to do directory piece (to be maintained on web site). In addition, the recommendation would be to also publish both the program and the member direct on-line only (with paper copies being made only for members who have no online abilities. Benefits of the change would include reduced administrative burden for the Program Chair as well as eliminating the cost to produce annual booklet. A vote taken and the recommendation passed unanimously.
* The discussion was followed by a proposal from Minnie Ullman to designate a person responsible for identifying person to manage general member updates – e.g., a “sunshine committee” type role. It was agreed that a vote to create this type of position would be delayed until the next club meeting.
* Holly revisited the topic of Minnie’s efforts to get job descriptions written and digitized. Anyone club member currently holding a “chair” position is asked to outline what their current “calendar” of activities looks like. Please complete by/with the annual report deadline; Word documents should be sent to Holly once they are ready.
* Elwyn construction update: The Kevin Dugan Center being transformed into Student Transition Center teaching life skills to older students to transition into adult life. Student led (hard hat) tours are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays with a maximum of 8 persons at a time. Holly circulated a sign-up sheet for a tour on Feb. 27th at 10 AM. If more than 8 members are interested, additional tours can be scheduled. Elwyn indicated they might look to PCG to assist with life skills lessons related to horticulture, and could potentially have “disrupted” plants from construction that we could use for our annual sale.
* Joint meeting next month is scheduled for March 13th. ***Please note: the meeting start time is 9:30 a.m***. The meeting will be held at the Wallingford Community Arts Center and will be a joint meeting with the Rose Valley Garden Club. As with all meetings an RSVP (Yes or No) is required.  Please let one of the hostesses know whether or not you are able to attend as soon as possible.
* Philadelphia Flower Show 2025: Holly reminded members that the club really needs to enter next year since we were “scheduled” to have participated in 2024. Planning/assignments will be released by PHS shortly after the completion of the 2024 Flower Show. Holly would like to begin establishing a volunteer group at the next meeting.
* Holly strongly encourages members to log into PGC’s website and browse around. This wonderful resource is underutilized by many members, and Holly thanked Kelly Hefertape for the phenomenal work she’s done in creating, updating and maintaining our website.

**OTHER**:

* Sallie Anderson spoke briefly about the Shenk’s Ferry Wildflower preserve and recommended this site for a possible garden club outing, recommending the first two weeks in April as the best time to visit.

**PCGCA 2023 OVERSIGHT REPORT**

* Susie Leonard shared an in-depth presentation of the 2023 Fertilizer Fund projects, including photographs.
* A total of 16 grants were made in 2023; 29 grants requests are currently being reviewed for 2024 – a record number.
* The 2023 categories were: Food production, Historic Preservation, and Community Enrichment.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

(None)

Meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.

**Meeting Program:**

* Two guests joined the group for the program: Linda Reed and Gwen Kannapel.
* Scott Arboretum horticulturalist Josh Coceano presented on creating terrariums and provided a demonstration as well.
* PHS staff member Andrew Bunting shared information on exhibiting in and/or volunteering for the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hayden

Recording Secretary