

The Garden Club of St. Louis
Board Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020

Attendance: Lele Bitting, Mokie Carmichael, Mark Critchfield, Janie Foster, Mary Hayward, Meredith Holbrook, Lisa Imbs, Liz de Laperouse, Suzanne Johnson, Alex McNett, Mary Morgan, Linda O'Hara, Julie Peters, Alden Pflager, Carrie Polk, Lizzy Rickard, Kathleen Rogers, Tricia Schlafly, Ulrike Schlafly, Laura Streett, Liza Thornhill, Lisa Trulaske, Liza Weiss, Susan Werner, Nancy Ylvisaker

Welcome: Kathleen Rogers

- Kathleen opened the meeting with an overview of the agenda. The goal for today's meeting is to share what the various GCSL Committees are doing to stay connected and engaged virtually.

Updates: Kathleen Rogers

- Annual Meeting: the Annual Meeting video will be going out in a News Flash on September 15th. Video will give a report on the GCSL, share information about Green Grants, include a slide show of the past year, introduce the Provisionals, provide Committee reports and close with a photo montage.
- Treasury Report: Treasurers Beth Neisen and Conchita Stuhl were unable to attend but forwarded this report: Everything looks good with \$80k on hold for Green Grants in a checking account, a \$30k savings cushion, spent down in operating as expected just before call for annual dues, and working on 990, which will be ready next month. Note that online due bills will be sent next week and Board members are encouraged to pay online!

Committee Updates

- Programs: Meredith Holbrook
 - September 16th: Forest Park Pop Up in the Prairie thanks to Lesley Hoffarth. There will be a tour and discussion at 5.30. Invitation to go out tomorrow.
 - October: Live amaryllis planting demo with Jason Delaney in preparation for the holidays (virtual)
 - November 10th: Decorating seminar with Jack Holmes (virtual)
 - December: Planting a live holiday wreath with Paula Pryke (virtual)
- Program & Pop Up Ideation: entire Board
 - Sunday movie series at SLCC in a COVID safe way (Nancy Ylvisaker)
 - Forest Park: tour of the new Nature Playscape (Suzanne Johnson)
 - Shaw Nature Reserve: Wildflower Garden Walk (Carrie Polk)
 - Please send ideas to Lisa Imbs (lisaimbs@me.com)
- Grapevine: Tricia Schlafly
 - Thank you to everyone for sending in articles. Please submit content because this is a great platform for communication since we aren't gathering as much as we used to.

- News Flashes will be coming out this week and next
- Forest Park Pop Up Invitation coming out in the next few days
- September 17th is the next call for content
- President of GCA sent our club a great compliment on the last issue of the Grapevine!
- Conservation Committee: Nancy Ylvisaker
 - Starting a Conservation Book Club and looking to host an inter-club Book Club with the Kansas City Garden Club. The inaugural Book Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14th via Zoom.
 - Currently looking for more zoom-based educational series. The following are a couple Nancy has been exploring:
 - St. Louis Audubon Society's Bring Conservation Home Program which provides on-site advice to private landowners in the greater St. Louis area for the restoration of native plant and animal habitat on their grounds
 - Carbon Calculation Review Workshop through the Nature Conservancy
- Garden History & Design: Mark Critchfield and Lisa Trulaske
 - In the process of submitting the Russell Page garden to the Smithsonian. Mark will share the boards from the GCA meeting with Tricia who will include them in the Grapevine.
 - Hoping to be able to look at and document Bill Gilberts South Warson garden.
 - Turtle Playground Renovation: Mark suggested getting involved in the renovation of the playground adjacent to Bob Cassilly's Turtle Playground. Perhaps this is a potential Green Grant opportunity as well as a GCSL volunteer opportunity.
- Horticulture: Linda O'Hara and Alex McNett
 - VIRTUAL Shirley Meniece Horticulture Conference September 22-23: free to our members so please sign up. September 18th is the deadline to register
 - GCA Seed Swap: If you're looking to collect or swap seed sign up for the GCA seed swap. If you're looking for something in particular they'll connect you with just the person!
- Photography: Carrie Polk
 - GCA E-News call for content: submit photos in a horizontal format from October in year's past, deadline is this Sunday 9/13.
 - Dan Burkhardt and Carrie working on a project to be shared at a later date
 - "Magnificent Missouri" was suggested as our Club's next virtual photography show. Get your phones and cameras ready and submit photos from Fall and Winter for the show. Details will be sent out by Carrie and Joe Carpenter.
 - In the Works: Mercantile Library webinar highlighting works on paper and their historical seed catalog
 - It was also suggested that the existing photos from the Instagram hashtag could be arranged in a photo montage for those members who don't use Instagram.
- Provisionals: Lizzy Rickard
 - Provisionals have been filmed for the Annual Meeting announcement.

- Waiting to hear what opportunities will be offered by the various Committees for Provisionals to participate in and in the meantime, they are encouraged to submit photography via Instagram using #gcs11916 and attend Pop Ups.
- Bowood could be available for Provisionals or other members to create arrangements if that is scheduled.
- Visiting Gardens: Laura Streett
 - No upcoming trips planned
 - Ulrike encouraged everyone to check out the GCA E-News where photos from a Denmark & Sweden Garden Trip are posted. Enjoy a virtual trip instead!
- Christmas Luncheon/Gathering: Lele Bitting
 - Please share any ideas you may have with Lele for how to facilitate this tradition in a safe, COVID-friendly way.
 - Mary Hayward suggested a virtual Boutique
 - Mary Morgan, inspired by the Floral Bomb movement, suggested a Holiday Tree Decorating & Drinks gathering etc.
 - Lizzy Rickard suggested selling floral arrangements to members that are then offered to the wider community to spread cheer during a time when so many cannot be together.
 - Lele will convene a group to brainstorm more ideas on this and report back.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2020 @ 9:00 am

- The Board will plan to meet in person at SLCC and dig into Green Grants, as well as hear updates from the Committee heads on the ideas brought up today.

Meeting Adjourned by Kathleen Rogers @ 9:55am