

The Little Garden Club of Memphis
Membership Meeting
March 7, 2024
Goldsmith Room

President, Emily Kay, welcomed everyone.

Emily asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2024 meeting (the February meeting was the joint meeting). Reagan Magness made the motion, Weetie Whittemore seconded the motion.

Emily announced the 3 finalists for the Garden Club of America's Founders Fund, a \$30,000 Grant for Civic Improvement that we need to vote on as a Club:

- 1- Palm Beach Garden Club (Zone VIII) for an Orchid Learning Center
- 2-Memphis Garden Club (Zone IX) for a Community Garden at Church

Health

- 3-Little Garden Club of Rye (Zone III) for a Botanical Learning Center

Following the description of the 3 projects, everyone was given the opportunity to vote. Our club's vote will count as one GCA vote of 99.

Emily announced on behalf of Mary Muscari that the Little Garden Club is 99% current on MBG dues.

Bradley Fogelman and Elizabeth Williamson, Horticulture, announced that we would have a Hort Pop-Up with Owen Smith of MBG on March 18 at 11am. Owen will show us how to plant raised beds. Also, on March 27 at 10:30 am Kathy Adams, Lynn Fulton and Gina White will host a seminar in the Goldsmith Room on how to enter Horticulture in a garden show. On April 24 at 11 am in Sarah's Place, there will be a seminar on host plants and specialist insects.

Garnett Hutton and Bradley Fogelman, Inspirations Sponsorship Chairs, encouraged everyone to be thinking about potential sponsors for our Inspirations event on November 7. They passed around a sign-up sheet for ideas of individuals and businesses who might be interested in sponsoring the event.

Michelle Dunavant, Flower Show, announced that she and Sue Clark will be chairing the 2025 Flower Show. They have a committee in place and are already working on the event which will be on April 24, 2025.

Emily thanked our meeting hostesses, Sarah Cowens, Liz Crosby, Kim MacQueen and Kirk McClintock.

Jean Johnston, Programs, announced that following our program, we would be divided into groups to tour the Arboretum and the Tropical Plant House that is nearing completion. Jean introduced Mike Allen, Executive Director of the Memphis Botanic Garden. Mike is a native of Chicago and came to Memphis with International Paper. He became ED of MBG after a 25-year career at IP, the successful launch and sale of his own company, and his role as CEO of Catholic Charities of West Tennessee. During his tenure, he has raised over \$12m and increased membership and visitors. Mike spoke to the “state of the garden,” informing us that the Garden is in healthy both physically and financially. He touched on several areas of development and spoke about the “Rooted at Park and Cherry” campaign, focusing on the arboretum, family bathrooms, and the youth education and tropical plant house.

Emily thanked Mike, adjourned the meeting, and dismissed everyone for tours of the gardens.

Respectfully submitted,

Garnett Hutton