

Little Garden Club of Memphis
Board Meeting
March 20, 2019
Memphis Botanic Garden

Attending: Katie Eleazer, Natalie Latham, Leslie Schutt, Ruthie Taylor, Liz Crosby, Katherine Dobbs, Weetie Whittemore, EJ Baird, Julie Hussey, Lucia Crenshaw, Mimsie Crump, Kirk McClintock, Gina White, Jean Johnston, Ragan Magness, Barbara Williamson, Kate Trammell, Lisa Snowden, Lisa Wilder, Linda Mallory, Mary Call Ford, Katie Wiener

Mary Call called the meeting to order by thanking us for being supportive during Mott's father's death. The wreaths for her front door were beautiful. She expressed sadness about the loss of Marilyn Hughes. She was a great leader, a great lady and will be missed.

Mary Call thanked us for attending the joint meeting and board dinner. Thomas Woltz had a great time at the dinner and the meeting was fantastic. She and Jenne Williams, President of Memphis Garden Club, discussed changing the joint meeting to an evening meeting that includes the men. The joint meeting speakers are always fabulous and it is unfortunate that the men do not get to hear their comments. More discussion between our club and theirs will occur.

Minutes from the February board meeting were submitted for approval. Lisa Wilder, parliamentarian, suggested a change. The amended minutes were approved.

Mary Call called on Weetie Whittemore for the treasurer's report. Weetie's numbers were as follows:

Administrative Fund-\$87,192.86
Community Fund-\$69,648.93
Zone Meeting Fund-\$36,812.65
Marguerite Turner-\$1,867.73

Mimsie's Crump, assistant treasurer followed. Her account balances were:

Memorial Fund -\$21,647.30
Sensory Garden-\$48,983.12
Children's Garden-\$58,017.33

Liz Crosby, Conservation, reported that the Partners for Plants application was submitted to GCA. A woman in Chicago helped Liz edit the application to make it more attractive to the GCA committee. It will be June before we get a response from the GCA. Liz feels really good about it. She and Kim Gibson have just returned from the NAL conference. They were in Washington from Sunday to Wednesday. They heard great speakers on Monday on many different topics. Tuesday they were on the hill and heard from legislators. While we hear the not much is happening in Washington, things are getting accomplished. The Botany Bill is going through. The Land and Water Conservation Act is fully funded. It was very exciting to hear. She and Kim have an Ivy Vine article to come. Mary Call asked if we were the second largest lobbying group. The group consensus was yes. The GCA has power.

Mary Call thanked Liz for attending the conference. She reminded us that travel is important. As a club, we have to send delegates to several meetings a year. Thank you for going and doing it.

On the travel note, Kate Trammell is going to the Annual Meeting in Boston on Mary Call's behalf. She travels regularly with the judging program, so it is not unusual for her. The meeting is several days and her expenses are adding up quickly. We offer a \$500 stipend to cover expenses and LGC pays full registration for delegates attending GCA meetings. Kate emailed

20 people she knows from judging who are in different clubs. She has received responses from about 40% of her people. There is great variance on what and how much other clubs contribute. Thus far most clubs pay the registration fee for the conference. Some pay portions of either airfare or lodging or both. Kate suggested that a committee be created to look at all of the information that she gets from the other clubs. Mary Call will appoint a committee. We spend \$5,500 to send 11 people to meetings. We raise the money through our auction. Natalie Latham and Katie Eleazer both stated that some of what we do is a donation to our club. They both acknowledged that travel expenses have increased in the last several years. Lisa Snowden pointed out that GCA committee travel is tax deductible. Lisa asked if that is possible for us? The new committee will discuss possible options for our board to review.

Leslie Schutt is thrilled that we are having begonia rooting workshop on Tuesday, April 30 at 10 am. It will be held at Peggy Peters home on West Cherry. Peggy is very passionate about begonias. She has many different varieties. We will all go home with cuttings and rooting instruction which can be used for our flower show in the Fall. Leslie also needs horticulture for the Zone meeting in Beaumont, TX. Please focus on hardy greenery that will travel well. Horticulture drop off is April 8 from 1-3 at Corinne Adrian's on Harbert.

Ruthie Taylor has a photography workshop with Vance Lewis on April 18 at 3:30. We will meet at the cutting garden at the Dixon. Vance plans to teach us how to take close ups and landscapes that can be submitted to GCA shows.

Ragan said that the meeting tomorrow will be fun. Life and Mentor members have been offered rides. Silver bells, members who have been in 25 years or more, will be honored. Close to 80 people are attending our party. Every past president except Aggie Turley is attending. Next month our meeting is at Girls inc in Frasier. Please carpool.

Mary Call announced for Kate Connell and Michelle Dunavant that on Tuesday, April 2 we will meet in the hotel lobby in Greenville at 5:30 to go to Canale's for a drink and then dinner.

Lisa Wilder spoke for Kathy Adams. Lisa moved that we accept the bylaw changes as presented in January pertaining to the Election of New Members. Weetie Whittemore seconded. Lisa asked if there was any discussion? Silence ensued. Mary Call called a vote. All were in favor. Aye. The membership will vote tomorrow.

Mary Call brought up the summer interns for the Memphis Botanic Garden. They have asked for any amount we can give. Last year we did \$5,000 for the Sensory Garden intern and \$5,000 for the Children's Garden intern. Lisa Wilder commented that the money can come out of the Memorial or Community account not just the Sensory Garden account. Mary Call would like to do more because the MGC has reduced their expenses. Katie Eleazer thinks we need to be aware of what we are spending based on the possibility of increasing travel reimbursements. Lisa Snowden suggested that we do what we did last year and let them know. We can ask them for a proposal for additional needs. Lisa Snowden made a motion that we give them \$10,000. Ragan seconded. There was brief discussion. Lisa Wilder asked which account the money came from last year? The answer was Children's and Sensory. Lisa Snowden adjusted her motion to include that the payment come from the Children's and Sensory account. It was approved. We will tell the membership that the board voted to approve and vote tomorrow.

Mary Call adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Wiener, Recording Secretary