

The Little Garden Club of Memphis
Board Meeting
November 13, 2019
Memphis Botanic Garden

Attending: Katie Eleazer, Kim Lowrance, Mary Call Ford, Weetie Whittemore, Katie Wiener, EJ Baird, Corinne Adrian, Jeannie Tabor, Natalie Latham, Kathy Adams, Kate Trammell, Ruthie Taylor, Anne Keesee, Jean Johnston, Michelle Dunavant, Liz Crosby, Julie Hussey, Linda Mallory, Kim MacQueen, Paige Proctor, Gina White, Lisa Wilder, and Barbara Williamson

Mary Call welcomed us to the meeting and thanked us for braving the cold to arrive. She thanked us for our enthusiasm surrounding the LeBonheur green project. We accomplished so much for them in a month. Lysbeth Francis is coming to our meeting tomorrow to talk about Phoebe Cook Lecture which is November 21 at 11am. Their speaker, Isabel Bannerman, is well thought of in England.

Mary Call thanked Linda Mallory and Gina White for the Flower Show which was tremendous. She has received thank you notes from our out of town judges all of which were very complimentary of our hospitality and the show itself. Mary Call thanked Jeannie Tabor and Catherine Sikes for the wonderful Sensory Garden 30th Anniversary cleanup. We had cake, champagne, and fun. She commented on what a big year we have had with the 10th anniversary of My Big Backyard and our own 90th birthday. Mary Call hopes we have seen *The Real Dirt*. Gina White was featured as a winner of a propagation award for an Opium Poppy. Ruthie Taylor received an honorable mention for a moon flower.

Mary Call asked that we approve the minutes for the meeting last month. Weetie Whittemore moved and Natalie Latham seconded. The board voted to approve the minutes.

Mary Call asked Weetie to give the Treasurer's report. Weetie announced that we took \$211,000 and put it in CDs which will make our numbers appear low. The CDs should earn about \$4,800 in income in the next 13 months.

Weetie reported the following numbers for herself and the Assistant Treasurer:

Administrative Fund: \$37,244.52 (\$30,000 CD)

Community Fund: \$31,725.72 (\$40,000 CD)

Marguerite Turner: \$1,868.41

Zone Meeting Fund: \$12,106.65 (\$30,000 CD)

GCA Education Fund: \$8,139.88 (\$20,000 CD)

Children's Garden: \$14,429.72 (\$45,000 CD)

Memorial Fund: \$11,184.64 (\$11,000 CD)

Sensory Garden: \$15,203.74 (\$35,000 CD)

Kim MacQueen is excited for us to hear from Susan Sully tomorrow. Susan is a friend of Judy Powell. We will have one of Susan's books available for purchase. The cost is \$45 by check or Venmo to Ragan.

Michelle Dunavant, Travel, is excited that the Philadelphia trip has 35 people attending with a wait list. Your payment balance is due December 5. The trip will be three very full days. It will be fun!

Jean Johnston, Ways and Means, shared that the greenery arrives on Tuesday the 26th of November. It will be labeled and ready to pick up from behind Sue Clark's house on Wednesday 27th. Make your check out to Jean Johnston. Sue is sending an email to each person to tell them what they owe.

Julie Hussey asks that at the December meeting at Elizabeth Williamson's we not park in her driveway. It is very steep driveway, so it will need to be open for drop off. Linda Hill with LeBonheur will come to our December meeting so that we can present her with a check.

Mary Call moved us on to unfinished business from last month. We had discussed the GCA Second Century Capital Campaign and the MBG Capital Campaign. She spoke to our accountant at length and we are in a good financial position. We have \$343,000 in cash of which \$163,000 is unrestricted and \$180,000 is restricted by us. We reserve the Sensory, Children's, GCA Education and Zone funds specifically for needs in those areas which is the cause of the restriction. Our accountant said that in 4 years from 2015-2019 we had a net cash increase of \$47,000 which came from memorials, donations, and Ways and Means. The CDs will add \$4,800 per year which is not included in the accountant's \$47,000.

Kate Trammell explained the new travel stipends. We have been spending \$5,500 per year on travel stipends excluding registration fees. We are increasing Shirley Meneice, NAL and Annual Meeting to \$1000 as the location and expenses are higher at these meetings. We are leaving the remaining meetings at \$500. Our cost will now average \$8000 per year. Travel stipends will receive income from three CDs: Memorial, Administrative and GCA Education. This is retroactive to the beginning of this fiscal year and will be announced to the membership tomorrow. Our Ways and Means chairs will not be burdened with covering the additional cost.

Vance Lewis asked at our last meeting that we contribute \$25,000 to the MBG over 3 years specifically for the Visitors Center. Katie Eleazer asked how much additional money we give the MBG annually. We give \$10,000 each year for interns and \$3,000 for cherry trees. \$10,000 was given for Hardin Hall 2 years ago. EJ Baird pointed out that Catherine Sikes said things were not as good as they should have been in the Sensory Garden. Areas that should have been planted had been left vacant. Tom Pellett provided the MBG with a list of plants that needed to be planted prior to his moving. Kate Trammell pointed out that MBG could have gotten the plants, and they should have done it. Kathy Adams said Marley Fields might do for us what Tom Pellett had been doing. Natalie Latham agreed that we need a supervisor working on our behalf. The Sensory Garden fund could pay Marley. Liz Crosby asked if there was a chain of command at the MBG and can Marley provide direction so that they aren't putting leftovers in our garden. As a board member of the MBG, Kim MacQueen said that MBG has been diligent in managing their budget and staff. They are addressing many things that haven't been addressed in years. It is hard to keep good gardeners on staff. Kim says we need to communicate the Sensory Garden issues directly to Mike Allen. Kate Trammell pointed out what we get in free meeting space offsets what we spend. We all agreed that we had digressed into two conversations: the donation and the Sensory Garden. The \$25,000 donation is to improve the visitors center. Weetie Whittemore seconded our motion from the last meeting to make the contribution. The board voted in approval. It will go before with the membership tomorrow.

Tempe Thompson had asked that we give the GCA Second Century campaign \$15,000 over 5 years. She wants everyone to contribute individually to the campaign as well. Lisa Wilder seconded the motion from our last meeting. There was no discussion. The board approved the motion. It goes to membership tomorrow. Jeannie Tabor asked if there was an easy way to remind us to make a donation. It will be in the Ivy Vine.

Mary Call brought new business with the LeBonheur greenspace. Our goal was to raise \$50,000 for the berms. She has \$61,850 in commitments from 65 people. She has 59 checks for \$56,800 in hand. Mary Call wants to have this all wrapped up by the end of the week. We can talk about what to do with the excess. We can create an account to keep the money for Phase 2. They do not currently have plans, but we want to be part of the committee that works

on it. Our contribution could be for a rehabilitation garden, a rock wall with water, a walkway, or planting areas. Weetie asked if we pay for upkeep. Kathy Adams said we don't. Lisa Wilder asked about the \$15,000 item that was on the list. Both the Labyrinth and the Serenity Garden descriptions were read to the board. Mary Call believes that Phase I is complete. Barbara Williamson pointed out that this could be eligible for a Founders Fund award. Kathy Adams moved that we set up an account for Phase 2. Weetie thinks that we should give the full amount of the check now because individuals gave to the berms. Discussion ensued. Barbara Williamson asked if we can present the question to the membership. It was agreed that a decision should come from the board. Julie Hussey seconded that the motion that the money go into an earmarked LeBonheur green account. The board voted in approval.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Wiener, Recording Secretary