

Chappell Hill Garden Club General Meeting

February 12, 2025

President Dixie Ford called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall of Chappell Hill Methodist Church. She welcomed the “spring weather” (rain!), then gave a prayer, and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag. A quorum was established with 30 members present.

Dixie thanked the refreshment crew for the Valentine’s lunch: Tom and Bennie Yates, Vicki Bernet, Cathy McNurlen, and Lexa Oelze.

Dixie read a statement she had prepared on the resignation of Dale Ramey from the board, saying she appreciated all that Dale had done for the club and had accepted now her resignation.

Minutes: Dale D. made a motion to accept the January 15 minutes as presented. Debi gave the second and all were in favor.

Treasurer’s Report: Kay reported Total Assets of \$69,639 including Cash of \$37,293 and CDs of \$21,620 and \$10,429. Revenue for January was \$1977 (HT Tickets of \$1000 and Dues of \$870), Expenses of \$361 for the banner reservation fee for Home Tour 2025 and stamps. Income for January was \$1616. Additionally, 14 members still owed dues, with the February meeting being the deadline for membership applications.

Kay then presented the 2025 budget and opened the floor to questions. Virginia made a motion to adopt it as presented, Jodi gave the second, and all were in favor.

Amendment to Bylaws: Dixie presented an amendment to the bylaws to include a new Article describing the Board of Directors’ Responsibilities. (Attached) Sonjia made a motion to amend the bylaws with these responsibilities, Bennie seconded and all were in favor.

Committee Reports:

- Main St. Cleanup – Debi reported lots of fluffing and weeding will need to be done. Dale D. and Cathy are taking on the memory garden. There is no longer a need to pull hoses across the street. She also reminded members that February is the month to trim roses.
- Storage – Debi also reported an inventory workday scheduled for Feb. 21 at 9 AM to figure out what is in the space.
- Programs – Mary reported that the March program will be at the home of the McLoughlin, with lunch out following the garden tour.

- Scholarships – Forms are on the website and are due April 1. Open to Washington Co. students. Applicants can reapply if they received a scholarship in the past, but will not be reminded to do so, and must reapply with additional information.

Mary then introduced John Ferguson, a certified professional soil scientist (CPSS) and founder of Nature's Way in Conroe, who gave an informative talk on "soil" (which is alive) vs "dirt" (that gets swept out of the house). He described the soil food web and needs for a healthy, living soil. He highly recommended books by Jeff Lowenfels: *Teaming with Microbes*, *Teaming with Nutrients*, and *Teaming with Fungi* as well as a book he coauthored with two others titled *Organic Management for the Professional*.

Following the program, Tom Yates made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sonjia, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Boulware