Chappell Hill Garden Club

August 9, 2023

The Chappell Hill Garden Club meeting opened in prayer by Bennie Yates and Dale Ramey at 10:03. Kaylee Sodolak with Texas Brigade led the pledge of allegiance. Present were 44 members.

Quorum was established.

Dale Ramey introduced Celeste Dickschat of Texas Brigade, a youth leadership development program that uses wildlife as a teaching tool. The Brigade has seven camps throughout Texas and provides five-day camps in the summer for 13–17-year-olds.

Texas Brigade's Kaylee Sodolak, Cody Lavelle and Mylee Cano talked about what they learned at camp this summer.

Dale Ramey presented a facsimile check to Texas Brigade. The club donated $2,000 in 2023, enabling four youth to attend camp.

Dale Ramey introduced Faye Beery who would speak about plumerias after the business meeting.

Angela Rutland made a motion to approve the July 12, 2023, minutes. Dale Dugas seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report Lynda Harrison summarized the latest financial statements, which will be available on the website. As of July 31, 2023, the book bank balance was $6,514.85. The club also has a $20,000 CD, which has accrued about $300 in interest. Through July, the club had a loss of $14,131.01. The club operates at a loss most of the year until the Christmas home tour. Home tour revenue through July was $2,125.

Lynda reminded members that today was the deadline for paying $25 for the Christmas party.

Lynda moved that the club designate the December 9, 2023, Christmas Home Tour as one of the club's tax-free days for the year. Carol Madeley seconded, and the motion passed.

Refreshments Bennie Yates, Tom Yates, Mary Humphries, Cindy Blount and Betty Demara provided refreshments. In September, Sandy Smith, Fran Hunt, Libby Beckenbaugh, Mary Smith and Karen Van Citters will bring refreshments. Sandy Smith volunteered to be the coordinator of the group.

Dale Ramey reminded members that committee chairs are responsible for their committee and should contact and remind people who signed up to volunteer. Dale encouraged members to go to the website for information about committees and other important information about the club.

Programs Justin Duncan will present a program on medicinal plants at the September meeting.

Home Tour Flyers were available for members to take one each. At the September meeting, more will be handed out to members to distribute to businesses. Members should organize teams to deliver flyers in September. Dale Ramey thanked Karen Kubeczka for her outstanding work on the flyers.

Due to technical difficulties, Pay Pal will not be available this year for ticket purchases. Instead, tickets will be bought through the Bluebonnet House.

Bennie Yates will organize a schedule for docents. All members are required to docent.

The deadline for members to purchase $100 home tour tickets is October 18. Members are encouraged to purchase tickets earlier and to sell more tickets than required.

Pre-tour Cocktail Party The party for docents and sponsors donating $500 or more will be held at Glennis Tolunay's house after the pre-tour on December 8. Janice Williams is working with caterers and will have a final decision soon.

Many members will be needed to set up before and clean up after the party.

Home Tour Contest Twyla Kingsley is considering decorating wreaths for the contest this year. If you have other suggestions, please contact Twyla.

Christmas Party The party will be at Lillian Farms on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 11 to 3. The deadline to RSVP and pay $25 for lunch is today. Members should bring a nice, wrapped gift for the gift exchange.

Many members will be required to set up before and clean up after the party.

Angela Rutland passed around a sheet for members to give their input on a couple of ideas. Members could indicate if they would like to bring an optional additional unwrapped gift to take to a nursing home, and whether they would like to have party favors. An email requesting input was sent to members previously and Angela already had many responses.

Paula Barrett has chaired the Christmas party committee for many years and done a wonderful job. She will be retiring from the position in 2024 so a new committee chair will be needed next year.

Home Tour Sponsorship Virginia Servier, Mary Humphries, Karen Kubeczka and Dixie Ford have been helping Dale Ramey with sponsorship. Dale Ramey encouraged members to ask businesses to sponsor the home tour. Packets are available from Dale Ramey to take to the companies to explain what the club does for the community.

Main Street Cleanup Debi Faver reminded members that those on Main Street Committee are expected to come to every cleanup. If they cannot

come, they should call or text Debi to let her know. Debi was disappointed that only eight members of the seventeen-person committee were at the August cleanup. Members not on the committee are also encouraged to come help.

Bluebonnet seeds were saved from the bluebonnets on Main Street. The seeds have been packaged and will be sold at the Scarecrow Festival and other venues. If you are interested in helping sell the seeds, please contact Debi Faver.

Daffodils were recently dug up and will be replanted on Main Street in October. Members were reminded that only those who work may take plants home.

Debi will arrange a workday later in the fall to paint the metal nutcrackers The Bluebonnet House donated. The nutcrackers will be displayed on Main Street during the home tour. If you are interested in helping, please contact Debi Faver.

Watering on Main Street Debi Faver passed around a sign-up for watering two times a week on Main Street. Instructions are posted by the watering reel and the watering schedule is on the website.

Dale Ramey thanked Diane Wann, Cathy McNurlen, Debi Faver, Dale Dugas, Pam Hall and Karen Kubeczka for watering recently.

Seed Library Debi Salcedo can no longer chair the seed library committee. Kathryn van der Pol and Maclyn Jones volunteered to take over.

Members are encouraged to save seeds and bring them to the meeting for the seed library. The library is available to members to take seeds, free of charge, at each meeting. A list of available seeds is on the website.

Suggestion Box There were no suggestions in the box from the last meeting. Members were encouraged to put their suggestions in the box.

Membership Bob Markos thanked everyone for their cards and well wishes for his ear infection. He warned members to be careful working with bare hands in the dirt because that's how he got the infection.

Scholarship Shirley Rigamonti reported that all scholarship checks have been sent this year. Eight recipients received $1,000 each from the club.

Elections Elections will be held in October. Members are encouraged to consider running for a position.

Lynda Harrison explained that members will be voting for directors. There are nine positions open. The club provides director and officer insurance.

Website Quiz Dale Ramey asked two questions to test if members were using the website. Paula Matthews and Dale Dugas gave the first correct answers. They can go to The Bluebonnet House to get their prizes.

Community Events A wine and cheese tasting will be held on Main Street, Chappell Hill Saturday, August 12 from 11 to 4. The cost is $31.

Kathryn van der Pol and Bennie Yates will be teaching an American history class on unsung African American heroes at the Texas Heritage Event Center Thursday, August 10 from 5 to 7:30.

After refreshments were served, Faye Beery gave a program on plumerias.

Shirley Rigamonti moved to adjourn; Margie Ogrodowicz seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 12:04.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Madeley