Chappell Hill Garden Club General Meeting

June 12, 2024

Vice President Bennie Yates called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM in the Fellowship Hall of Chappell Hill Methodist Church. President Ford was on vacation. Darlene Wyatt presented a prayer and Dale Dugas led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bennie thanked the following members of the refreshment committee for lunch: Deb Faver, Doug and Maclyn Jones, Sally English, and Sonjia Biddle. She also thanked the members who had agreed to bring cookies for the June 15 fundraiser.

A quorum was established with 35 members present.

Kathyrn van der Pol read a thank you note from member Barbara Segal for the club's planting of a Desert Willow Tree on her property in memory of her son.

Minutes: Dale D. moved to accept the May 8 minutes as previously distributed with a second made by Dale R. All voted to approve.

Treasurer's Report: Kay reminded members that the Home Tour money is due by the end of this meeting. She also reported $53,659.37 in current assets, which includes two CDs.

Committee Reports:

- Karen directed the members to see the video loop of announcements on the TV screen. The group appreciated the reminders and agreed it should continue.

- Dale R. reported the Second Fundraiser set up committee will meet at 5:30 PM on Friday, June 14 and then return on Saturday at 9 AM for the event. Tables need to be decorated and cookies/ drinks will need to be displayed.

-Work days for the float for the July 4th parade are being held at Diane Wann's house on June 13, 19, and 26. The theme is Flower Power-Love-Butterflies. The Chamber's theme is Hometown Heroes so pictures of teachers, nurses, firemen, police, will be painted on fence pickets to put around the sides of the float. Deb thanked Diane for her hospitality in offering her home/garage and providing refreshments to the volunteers.

-Main St Clean Up crew cleaned up the bank and planted herbs at Bever's. They were able to work about 45 minutes before the rain began. Watering crew still needed for July on Mondays or Fridays. Takes about an hour total. July watering will mostly be done by Dale R. and Dixie.

-Christmas Party will be Dec. 18 at Texas Heritage Center with a Traditional Country Christmas theme. There are currently 8 members on the committee.

5 Minute Gardening Tip: Doug Jones shared his knowledge and experience with succulents. He reported that most are easy to propagate, need well-drained soil, and little water. He suggested using photo apps like iNaturalist and Google Lens (for Android phones) to identify favorites and write comments to accompany the photo. He also personally prefers books over the internet to learn more about succulents. Doug indicated he would provide his resource information for the website.

Bennie said the Program Committee is looking for more members to offer a 5 minute talk on an appropriate subject of their choice.

Program: After the lunch break, Mary Smith introduced the speaker, Paul Winski. Paul is the Program Specialist-Green Industry/Commercial Horticulture for A&M Agrilife Extension Horticultural Sciences. He discussed Earth-Kind principles including the importance of a good plan and design with practical turf areas, soil improvements, efficient irrigation, and effective mulches. He suggested always getting a soil test and using 3" of compost. For soil improvement, 3" of compost worked 6" down. For poor drainage areas, use raised beds. Trees should be mulched 3" deep out to the drip line, shredded hardwood mulch preferred. The Texas Superstar (texassuperstar.com) and Earth-Kind plants (ekps.tamu.edu/) are recommended and the lists are continuously being updated. Compost brands he recommends are Living Earth, Nature's Way, Warren's, New Earth, and others. He said to look for a label that says "international mulch society" on it.

Following the program, Bennie reminded members of the June 15 fundraiser and the next regular meeting on July 10 where the program will be on Trees and Landscaping.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Boulware