

Chappell Hill Garden Club Board

February 28, 2022

The Chappell Hill Garden Club Board meeting opened in prayer by Bennie Yates at 2:04. Present were Carol Madeley, Dale Ramey, Karen Kubeczka, Shirley Rigamonti, Lynda Harrison, Bennie Yates, Debi Faver and Loyce Jardell.

Quorum was established.

Karen moved that the January 31, 2022 board minutes be approved. Bennie seconded the motion, which passed.

Treasurer's Report The February financials have not been finalized, but the preliminary cash balance is \$30,009.14. Sponsorships of \$1,000 have been received to date and home tour ticket sales are \$270. Member dues collected total \$1,650. Only two members have not paid, but they have asked for more time from the board.

Chappell Hill Bakery and Deli designated \$500 of their sponsorship be used for Texas Brigade.

Carol moved that \$2,000 be given to Texas Brigade in 2022, enabling four students to go to camp. Loyce seconded the motion, which passed.

Discussion of the Feb. 9 General Meeting Lynda addressed the animated discussion at the last meeting, where several members aired complaints. Lynda said she had two main take aways: one, the need for more communication from the board and two, the need for more input from members about the community outreach the club provides.

The board went into an executive session at 2:22 and returned to the board meeting at 2:51.

After discussion, the board agreed to update the Community Outreach form, which is attached to the original minutes.

Other suggestions for improving communication and member input on community outreach follow.

The most important solution is to encourage members to come to board meetings, armed with facts, to present their concerns. To facilitate this, the date and time of board meetings will be announced at general meetings. Two, a suggestion box will be available at the meetings. Suggestions must be signed and not anonymous. Time will be set aside each meeting for members to voice concerns and make suggestions. Lynda volunteered to create a survey form for members to give input on budget items and programs. She will hand out the form in August.

Another issue discussed at the general meeting was the need for more fun. The board had several ideas, including members playing pickle ball or volleyball or going out to lunch. Carol will send emails to members if someone organizes such an event.

Resignation of Jenn McLoughlin Jenn came to the Feb. 9 meeting to let the board know she was resigning because she was going back to work. The board appreciated her letting us know and returning her notebook. The board agreed to return her 2022 membership dues. Carol will write her a letter. After Dale Ramey's approval, Carol will send the letter to Jenn with a check for \$30.

HOT Grants Dale Ramey reported that Joel Romo and Candance Bullock think we can get some HOT grant money to be used for home tour advertising. Dale Ramey will work on the application.

Sponsor Exposure on Facebook Sponsors donating \$500 or more are promised promotion on the CHGC Facebook, Instagram and website. Dale Dugas is in charge of this. Shirley will periodically check to see if the posts are being made.

Home Tour Loyce suggested putting the names of large sponsors on banners around town.

Membership Applications Karen will highlight committee choice on the application.

Text from Helon Loep Dale Ramey read a text she received from Helon lamenting the changes in the garden club. It was another indication of some

members' unhappiness with the club. Dale talked to Helon and while Helon missed the "good ole days", she wants to remain a member.

Christmas Lights for Chappell Hill The club currently spends \$1,500 each year on Christmas lights in Chappell Hill and would like some help from others. Loyce talked to Joel Romo of the Chappell Hill Chamber of Commerce about helping with the expense.

Dale Ramey will ask the merchants on Main Street to donate \$100 each after the Bluebonnet Festival. She anticipated raising roughly \$1,000. Dale suggested that the club donate \$500; then ask the Chamber to also donate \$500. Loyce and Dale Ramey will talk to Joel Romo after the merchants have been contacted.

Committee Registration Bennie is working on putting members on committees for 2022. She will let new members have some time to decide on their committee choice. Bennie is revising the committee list and will have the updated list at the March meeting. At the meeting, committee chairs will describe what their committees do. When the committee list is final, Karen will update the Resource Book.

Flower Beds at Chappell Hill Methodist Church The club has agreed to maintain the beds at the church. The church will pay for the plants. Vicki Henson has volunteered to be in charge of the beds. Debi Faver and Vicki will meet with Barry Bennett from the church to discuss plans.

Community Gardening Opportunities Carol will send an email to members about the Budding Out Festival at John Fairy Gardens on March 19 and the Round Top Herb Festival March 18-19.

Sponsor Letters Carol wrote a letter, which the board approved, thanking 2021 sponsors and asking them to support the 2022 home tour. The letter lists the things the garden club does for the community, including scholarships, flags, and Main Street beatification. Karen has been working on putting addresses on each letter. When completed, Karen will send the file to Layla to print. Dale Ramey will sign the letters and Carol will mail them. Debi volunteered to help.

Karen will save the letter and addresses in drop box so next year, it will be easy to recreate.

Dale Ramey requested a similar letter for prospective sponsors. Carol will write the letter for Dale's approval.

Chappell Hill Chamber of Commerce Welcome Kit The chamber is creating welcome kits for newcomers to Chappell Hill. Dale Ramey volunteered to produce a CHGC post card to include in the kit.

Membership Roster Karen has been working to update the membership roster. When completed, it will be posted to the website. Carol will help Karen proof the roster before posting.

Programs The April 13 meeting will be a field trip to the Antique Rose Emporium. Refreshment volunteers for April will bring refreshments. Shirley and Jodi Rodriguez will pick a picnic site soon. If it rains, the meeting will be held at the church.

Cindy Blount will host the plant exchange May 11. If it rains, the exchange will be at Chappell Hill United Methodist Church or the Masonic Lodge. Members will bring sides and the club will provide fried chicken. Refreshment volunteers for May will set up and clean up.

The June 8 meeting will be a field trip to John Fairy Gardens in Hempstead. The club will pay the \$15 fee for members. Shirley will make a reservation at the Hempstead Event Café in Hempstead for lunch. Members will be responsible for their lunch.

A Master Gardener will speak at the July 13 meeting.

Garden Tour Cynthia Clayton's Gold Heart Ranch will be on the garden tour Saturday, May 7. After discussion with Cynthia, Dale Ramey suggested that the event be held exclusively at the ranch and the board agreed. Vendors will be invited to set up booths. Texas Star Winery will serve wine. Garden Girls, a landscape business, will have a booth. Antique Rose Emporium will be asked if they would like a booth. Food booths will be available. Loyce will research providing food from the club. Citizens on Patrol will be needed to direct traffic there.

Dale Ramey will chair the Garden Tour committee. Loyce, Shirley and Bennie volunteered to help.

Cynthia will be invited to the next board meeting to discuss the tour. The meeting may be held at Gold Heart Ranch.

Bennie moved to adjourn; Shirley seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Madeley
Secretary