Chappell Hill Garden Club General Meeting

February 14, 2024

President Dixie Ford called the meeting to order at 9:58 AM in the Fellowship Hall of Chappell Hill Methodist Church. She presented a prayer and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jean Mason was introduced as a guest who then joined later in the meeting. A quorum was established with thirty-five (35) members present.

Minutes: Kay made a motion to approve the January 17 minutes previously emailed to the members, Deb seconded, and all voted in favor.

Old Business: Dixie reported that the Resource Book has been updated and is now on the website.

New Business: Dixie reminded members that membership renewals are due as of February 14. Committee assignments are filled based on requests made on the membership form and will be published at the March meeting. She then read a letter from Bob Markos who stated he was not renewing this year due but hoped to see members around town.

Treasurer's Report: Kay presented the 2024 budget and took questions regarding various committee budgets such as the Christmas party and Community Outreach. Kay reminded the club that no funds were spent in 2023 for Community Outreach so $2500 is in the 2024 budget and will include the memorial tree to be planted at Lillian Farms. The current bank balance is $23,242 as of February 14. Kay then moved the 2024 budget be accepted as presented, Shirley seconded, and all agreed.

Committee Reports: Dixie encouraged everyone to participate in club meetings and events as that is what makes the club successful.

Main Street Clean Up – Debi reported that dead plants were successfully cleared out in February and roses were "beheaded." She thanked the volunteers who came to help and announced the next clean up event would take place on March 6 to plant and mulch. More volunteers are needed to help with watering on Mondays and Fridays. She also announced a storage room clean out/organization event on February 16 to determine if a new unit is room can be made in the existing unit or if more space is needed.

Scholarships – Shirley sent out emails at the end of January to students and contacts at academic schools and vocational centers. As of mid-February, she had received two applications (1 regular; 1 vocational). The deadline for applications is April 1. Texas Brigade has requested $2000 for four student scholarships which was approved.

Seed Library – Kathryn explained the seed library was outside on the sidewalk and consists of drawers filled with seeds provided by members. They are free to take, with the understanding that when you have extra seeds that you bring to a meeting share with others. Label the seeds

and bring in envelopes or sandwich bags. She also said she would accept bulbs, also labeled, for the library.

Fundraisers – Dale Ramey reminded members that the second fundraiser will be held June 15 from 10 AM to 2 PM at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church. Speakers will be Nick Hempel, arborist, and Justin Duncan, sustainable agricultural specialist. Each club member will be given five tickets to sell at $25 each. The ticket price will be raised to $30 after June 1. More information and the tickets will be provided at the March meeting. Nick will also be speaking at the Masonic Lodge for a short program on trees on February 17.

Refreshments – Fran Hunt passed around the refreshment list with a reminder that everyone should sign up to help with a month. The May 8 meeting will be a potluck provided by attending members with fried chicken provided by the club.

Programs – Dixie explained that the Plant Swap was not held in 2023 but will be held at the May 8, 2024, meeting at Texas Star Winery. Members are to bring a plant or garden art piece to swap in a White Elephant type game as done at the Christmas Party. The March 13 general meeting will feature a program by Marie Jenkins from the Rose Emporium.

5 Minute Gardening Tip – Mary Smith provided an information sheet with the names of favorite native plants, places to buy seeds, and the names of native plant societies and experts. One of her favorites is Greggs mistflower, a perennial with spreading roots and blooms that attract butterflies. She reminded the club to look for the highlighted plant on the CHGC website, too.

Cheryl Robinson, Tom Yates, Sandy Smith, Virginia Malinowski, Tina Hart, and Shirley Rigamonti provided lunch. Valentine decorations and candy adorned the tables.

The Program began with Debi Faver encouraging members to close their eyes and imagine themselves walking through a forest, seeing the leaves and plant material that has fallen to the ground, while listening to relaxing music. Her program title was Compost, Soil, and Mulch, and the layering of various materials is how compost is created. She explained what goes in to create compost at home (browns vs greens) and various kinds of bins.

Dixie announced the next general meeting will be on March 13 and members should leave their name tags before departing.

Glennis Tolunay, Paula Barrett, and Dixie Ford will provide refreshments for the March meeting.

Fran Hunt moved to adjourn, seconded by Sandy Smith, and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Boulware