Chappell Hill Garden Club General Meeting

September 11, 2024

President Dixie Ford called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall of Chappell Hill Methodist Church. She welcomed all, then gave a prayer, and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag. A quorum was established with 25 members present and no guests.

Dixie thanked the Refreshment Committee of Mary Humphries, Dale Ramey, Margie O., Darlene Wyatt, Vicki Bernet, and Bonnie Mills for the colorful salad lunch and desserts.

Minutes: Dale D. made a motion to approve the August 14 general meeting minutes, the motion was seconded, and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Kay reported a bank balance of $47,437.75, Cash of $15,919.27 and Interest income of $475 (to date). She addressed the common question of "Why does the club need to keep so much money in the bank?" by saying that it is needed to honor the club's commitment to providing scholarships and other community services for future years.

Dixie read a very gracious and appreciative thank you note from one of the Texas Brigades scholarship recipients.

Committee Reports:

- Dale R. reported that in the late afternoon on Friday, Dec. 13, the six property tour for members will begin at the Masonic Lodge and then travel to the other properties, ending up at the cocktail party. Dixie passed around a sign up for members who need to request a morning or afternoon docent shift for the tour. Docents are club members who are assigned to a property to take tickets, direct tour guests, provide eyes to protect the house and furnishings, and answer questions. Shifts are 9:30-1 and 1-5. Dale also reported this has been a good year for sponsorships.
- Sonjia Biddle requested parts from Little Tykes playhouses as she is restoring them with paint and decorations and will put them at the corner of 290 to advertise the Home Tour.
- Main Street & Watering – Debi thanked Dixie and Dale for leading the watering charge in her absence. She reminded the watering crew to put the cones out in the street to alert drivers on Main Street. The next planting event will begin at the post office at 8 AM on October 2 to clean up in preparation for the Scarecrow Festival. Packets of bluebonnet seeds will be sold at the Scarecrow Festival Oct. 12 (9-6) and 13 (10-5). There are a total of 7 watering stations now with extra hoses and timers to avoid dragging them across the street. Woody offered additional ideas for watering efficiency.
- Christmas Party – Debi handed out save the date cards. The $15 party cost is due on or before the November 13 regular meeting. The party will be December 18 from 10-3 at Texas Heritage Event Center. There will be raffle items to win and a gift exchange for a wrapped item valued $20-$30.

- Twyla will divide up members who would like to decorate a tree for the auction held in the Masonic Lodge on tour day. Trees will be due Friday, December 13.
- Jodi reported the October program will be a field trip to Texas A&M Teaching Gardens. More information will follow.

Program: Jodi introduced Heather Hendricks, owner of Monarch Garden Co., a family operation. She described 5 Herb Families: Mint, Aster, Carrot, Onion, and Laurel, with Mint having the largest variety. Planting herbs from the same family do well together in containers. She recommends choosing a variety and fill the container with more than you would necessarily think could fit in a pot together. In case of an upcoming freeze, Heather said it is important to water well before covering and don't cover the plants until right before temperatures drop to 27 degrees. Adding fresh compost to plants can help plant health, and mulching landscape beds should be done in mid-May and November. Raised beds need new compost every 3 months.

When planting a container, she recommends steel or terracotta with drainage holes for growing food. Layer gravel, then organic potting mix, plants, and compost on top around the plants. Put the tallest in the middle and add at least one flowering plant. She held a drawing for the beautiful container creation which was won by Twyla.

Dixie shared health concerns for Diane Wann's father and former member Susan Bauman's husband Eddie.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Boulware