Chappell Hill Garden Club

January 11, 2023

The Chappell Hill Garden Club meeting opened in prayer by Margie Ogrodowicz at 10:02. Jayne Hollywood led the pledge of allegiance. Present were 40 members and one visitor, Mary Smith, who joined.

Quorum was established.

Refreshments were provided by Loyce Jardell, Virginia Malinowski, Dale Dugas, Margie Ogrodowicz and Jayne Hollywood.

Dale Ramey introduced the 2023 board: Dale Ramey, President; Dixie Ford, First Vice President; Bennie Yates, Second Vice President; Lynda Harrison, Treasurer; Kay Hanson-Clerc, Assistant Treasurer; Carol Madeley, Secretary and directors, Karen Kubeczka, Debi Faver and Shirley Rigamonti.

Refreshments Virginia Malinowski passed around a sign-up sheet for refreshments in 2023. Members are required to provide refreshments once a year.

Sandy Smith introduced Herman Auer, Galveston Master Gardener, who gave a presentation on grafting.

After the program, refreshments were served, and the meeting continued.

Cathy McNurlen made a motion to approve the November 9, 2022, minutes. Kim Pope seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report Lynda Harrison presented **preliminary** financial statements, which were available to review. Lynda is still waiting on a few charges and $200 in sponsorships before closing the books.

As of December 31, 2022, $39,342.97 was the book balance in the combined bank accounts. Net income through December was $10,578.76. This will decrease slightly when additional expenses are recognized.

The home tour grossed $27,260, the highest amount ever.

Lynda reminded members to put any checks in an envelope before giving them to her.

Budget Schedule Members are encouraged to submit community outreach budget requests by putting their recommendation in the suggestion box or emailing Lynda. Lynda will make a preliminary budget, based on committee chair requests and member suggestions. The board will discuss the budget and agree on a preliminary budget at the Jan. 16 meeting. Carol Madeley will email the budget to members to review before the Feb. 8 meeting. The budget will also be on the website. Members have until Feb. 3 to email Lynda comments or questions. Members will vote on the budget at the Feb. 8 meeting.

Christmas Party Lynda explained that the club paid for the 2022 Christmas party, which cost $4,015. This was a thank you gift to members for all their hard work. In the past and in the future, the club will pay a portion of the cost, but not the entire cost. The Christmas Party Committee submitted a budget for 2023 of $5,400, or $90 per person, based on 60 members. Lynda asked members to think about if they are willing to pay their portion, or if they have suggestions to reduce the cost of the party. Lynda encouraged members to put their thoughts in the suggestion box.

Dale Ramey said that Janis Boulware has offered her home for the Christmas party. The cost of the country club will increase to $1,000 in 2023.

Dale Ramey recognized the Christmas Party Committee, Paula Barrett, Debi Faver, Dixie Ford, Angela Rutland, Cathy McNurlen and Helon Loep, and thanked them for a job well done.

Home Tour The 2022 home tour was a big success. There was discussion about how to improve the home tour next year.

A list of docents and their shifts will be posted at each home. Each home will have one contact docent on each shift and if there are any problems, Bennie Yates or Dale Ramey should be called immediately.

Paula Matthews and Mary Humphries will be Sponsorship assistants to Dale Ramey.

More help is needed at the cocktail party, setting up and cleaning up. Possibly a caterer could be found so members could enjoy the party and not work during it.

The issue of visitors wanting to use the bathroom at the homes on the tour was discussed. A suggestion was made to include in the program that restrooms are not available in the homes.

The issue of allowing only ten people in the home at a time was discussed.

The need for an information sheet about the home for the docents was discussed.

Dale Ramey asked Twyla Kingsley to chair the contest again in 2023. Members agreed the contest was fun, a good way to get to know members and it made over $500. Twyla agreed to chair the 2023 committee.

Mandy Forbes is working on home tour books that will be given to the homeowners in appreciation for having their homes on the tour. The books will be completed at the end of January and will be included in the 2023 financials.

The 2023 home tour will have six homes. Three homeowners are already interested in being on the tour.

Fifteenth Anniversary Party Cathy McNurlen reported the party will be on May 10 from 10-3 at The Halo House at Gold Heart Ranch. Cathy passed a sign-up sheet for 6 volunteers to clean up after the party.

Members were asked to sign a sheet, indicating what year they joined the club.

Members should send Dale Dugas any pictures they have of the club. The committee will have a slide show at the party.

Cathy McNurlen, Debi Faver, Fran Hunt, Kathi Kleiner, Loyce Jardell, Dale Dugas and Mary Armato are on the anniversary party committee.

Suggestion Box Paper for suggestions were on each table and members were encouraged to put their suggestions in the box. The board reads them at board meetings and reports back to the membership.

There were three suggestions in the box at the December board meeting.

One idea was to sell poinsettias at the home tour. Anyone who would like to chair this committee is welcome to do so, but the board is overextended during home tour and cannot take on another project.

Two, someone suggested having a 30-minute training session on being a docent at the November meeting. Bennie Yates agreed to organize the training next year if there is interest.

The third suggestion was to have more social events so members can get to know each other. Members are encouraged to get together on their own, but the club doesn't have the resources to take on a new project.

2023 Meeting Dates Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, except during months when there are festivals in Chappell Hill. The April meeting will be on April 19 and the October meeting will be on October 18. Meeting dates are on the website.

Membership Pam Waldren, Sally Mitchell and Gail Braun will not renew their membership in 2023 due to personal reasons.

Dale Ramey welcomed our newest member, Mary Smith.

The deadline to pay dues is Feb. 8. Members must submit an updated membership application with their $30 dues. Each member should include their committee choice on their application. If they do not choose a committee, Bennie will assign them to a committee.

Spring Fundraiser A fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 25 at First Baptist Church from 10-1. Margie Painter will talk about monarch butterflies, and Zack Stayton will discuss pollination, native plants and bees.

The club has received $550 in sponsorship for the event. Tickets will cost $15 until March 20, when they will cost $20.

New Member Notebooks New members will no longer be given notebooks with the resource book, membership roster, website tip sheet and welcome letter. All the information is on the website. Eliminating the notebooks will save money and encourage members to go to the website.

Fees for Visitors Dale Ramey explained that per the standing rules, the club may charge visitors a fee when there is a speaker. If the visitor joins the club, the fee will be waived. Recent meetings have been close to capacity so there's not excess room for visitors. Depending on the growth of the club, we may need a larger venue.

Programs Sandy Smith reported that at the February meeting, T.J. Jones will give a presentation on nature photography with cell phones.

In March, there will be a field trip to Bee Weaver's with lunch at Martha's Bloomers. Sandy will bring a sign-up sheet to the February meeting to order lunch for March in advance.

Tomball Memorial High School Garden Club Donation The club will donate to the garden club in appreciation for Cynthia Clayton hosting the 2022 spring fundraiser and the 2023 fifteenth anniversary party. Dale Ramey will talk to the sponsor of the garden club at the high school. After the information is verified about how to donate to the garden club, the club will donate $2,000.

Budget Requests Two budget requests were approved at the Jan. 9 board meeting. The club will purchase a PA system for $199 and a Chappell Hill Garden Club banner for $40 that can be used at meetings and events.

Lynda will include both items in the 2023 budget.

Scholarship The scholarship application has been updated and will be available on the website. The deadline is March 1. Members were encouraged to tell possible recipients about the scholarship opportunity. Scholarship Chair Libby Beckenbaugh will email all the previous scholarship recipients to remind them to submit their applications.

The following people are on the Scholarship Committee: Libby Beckenbaugh, Shirley Rigamonti, Sally English, Bob Markos, Nikki Rooney and Tommie Montgomery.

Next Meeting The next meeting will be Feb. 8 at 10 am at Chappell Hill Methodist Church.

Debi Faver moved to adjourn; Lynda Harrison seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 12:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Madeley