

**THE BEDFORD GARDEN CLUB
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday April 1, 2009
At the home of Kim Morris**

Present: Ellen Conrad, Suzanne Bowers, Leslie Wortman, Heather Langham, Lindsay Matthews, Kim Morris, Virginia Maybank, Deidre Glascott, Varner Redmon, Bitsy Tatnall.

Call to order: Ellen Conrad called the meeting to order.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: There was a motion to waive the reading of the report. The motion was passed.

Recording Secretary's Report: There was a motion to waive the reading of the report. The motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Maybank circulated 2 reports:

(1) Current account balances- This report reflects \$3,600 in collected past dues. Virginia will follow-up with remaining out standing dues. 2009-10 dues notices will be sent out separately from other BGC correspondence.

(2) Proposed budget for 2009-10. The following changes to the budget were suggested:

I. Operating expenses:

1. Programs from \$3,500 to \$4000
2. Exhibition from \$575 to \$750
3. Horticulture from \$625 to \$750
4. Conservation from \$1000 to \$750
5. Garden History and Design from \$500 to \$750
6. Public Relations from \$500 to \$50
7. Seedlings from \$800 to \$900
8. Taxes from \$550 to \$700
9. Yearbook- here a closer looker must be taken before setting the budget; projected was \$900 and actual year-to-date is \$129.

II. Civic Contributions:

Take out: Federated Conservationists (\$50) and Student Conservation Assoc. (\$250). Members felt there was no particular or strong civic or community connection with these organizations.

III. To be discussed at the next meeting are the categories (1) Civic and Education (2) Ongoing Projects. Reports for on going projects should be pre-submitted.

Other Budget discussions:

- Bedford Village Tubs-Mimi Lines pre-submitted a budget report for the Bedford Village planters. The exec committee is in agreement that BGC continue this

- important tradition. What has changed over time is the amount of planters and the cost of maintaining the planters themselves. It would be in our best interest to partner with a community organization to help shoulder some of the expenses and maintenance. It was moved that Heather Langham and Suzanne Bowers engage the Bedford Historic Review Committee in a conversation about their ongoing interest in Bedford beautification in general and the planters specifically.
- Standing Committees- Discussion resulted in general agreement that the Standing Committee budgets should be the same and the suggested budget increases reflect the perceived important role of all Standing Committee work. Varner Redmon commented that BGC was once (and not too long ago) recognized as having a strong hort membership. BGC needs to strengthen the Horticulture Committee and to educate our members about horticulture. Varner quoted Mrs. Waller as saying, “it is important to keep the garden in Garden Club”. Ellen asked that exec members write up their ideas on how to strengthen the Hort Committee and submit them to her. There was also a discussion about implementing a system where members can post and give away excess plant material from their gardens (a great resource members can tap into). Posting on the website seemed to be the logical answer with specific details to be worked out later.
 - Leslie Wortman suggested that BGC create a protocol where certain workshops and meetings are de facto dates on the annual calendar. Examples: a fall seed workshop, a spring all Club flower arranging challenge class, the May plant exchange.

Membership: Prior to today’s meeting and vote Suzanne Bowers circulated the proposal letters for each candidate so that the Committee would be prepared to vote. The vote for each candidate was unanimous and the Membership Committee is delighted to welcome BGC’s newest members: Elizabeth Bernard, Liz Hallock, Tori Cox, Stacey Albanese, Debbie Gourd, Allison Pachios, and Carol Bouyoucos. The protocol suggested by Suzanne calls for the proposer to notify and welcome the new member (and encourage them to attend the April and May meetings). Ellen will call to welcome as well and Lindsay Matthews, as Seedling Chair, will contact each new member and schedule a Seedling luncheon. Suzanne will write a brief bio for each new member to be published in Clippings and on the website.

The Exec committee engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the process of membership. The screening process of candidates consists of the informal Greensday invitation and the formal Membership Committee review and consideration. Members proposing and presenting new candidates follow the New Members by laws covered in Article XIII. Once voted in the new member is considered an active member. Based on the long BGC history and the overall success of this process it was agreed (after careful, thoughtful consideration) that amendments to the by laws were not needed at this time (such as posting newly voted on members before acceptance). There was general agreement among the exec committee that sensitivity to the feelings of those being considered by the Membership Committee is of the utmost importance.

Other business:

- Olivia Farr and Mimi Lines proposed that a memorial be created in honor of Linda Wilson, a most valued member of the Bedford Garden Club, who died in March. The suggestion was turned over to the Awards Committee.
- Suzanne Bowers, Varner Redmon and Heather Langham will work on entering Members' history into a computer program easily updated and accessible. Before Claire Crasto can do the data entry this sub committee needs to agree on the data to capture. Once this is decided a blue print of this document will be circulated to the exec committee for review.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 15th, the topic *Bedford Environmental Summit: How does BGC want to be involved going forward?*

Next Executive Meeting: May 6th, 2009 at the home of Suzanne Bowers

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Langham