

**THE BEDFORD GARDEN CLUB
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, January 14, 2008
At the home of Heather Langham**

Present: Ellen Conrad, Suzanne Bowers, Leslie Wortman, Heather Langham, Lindsay Matthews, Varner Redmon, Virginia Maybank, Dominique Buaron, Liddy Baker.

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; the first outlines both the checking account balance as of January 14 of \$32,797 and the amounts in BGC's Restricted Accounts. To clarify the intended use of the Perennial Endowment, Liddy Baker explained that of the \$39,981 a \$35,000 balance is maintained and the income is used to send members to meetings. It was decided that BGC would not earmark additional funds for The Environmental Summit (beyond our contribution of \$5000) until there was a comprehensive accounting of the Summit's expenses. It was also agreed that the Newell Memorial Account of \$12,593 would not be used to defray Summit expenses, so it may be used (if so deemed) to fund environmental seed projects in the community.

The second report circulated was the 2008 fundraiser Financial Statement showing a profit of \$21,046!

Standing Committee Reports:

Garden History and Design: Varner said she had not scheduled a meeting due to the already busy and full BGC calendar.

Exhibition: Leslie Wortman announced there would be an all Club challenge class at the February 25th general meeting to be held at Historical Hall. Experienced flower arrangers will be paired with less experienced members. This is a stress free, fun way to learn more about flower arranging and exhibiting. The class will be critiqued by a GCA panel. BGC will fund the class. Blue cards should go out by 2/1 so, for planning purposes, Leslie can get a head count by 2/11. There will not be a photography class at the 2/25 meeting.

Annual Meeting

It was decided that the photography class will be held at the Annual meeting in lieu of an in-house flower show. The idea of presenting BGC archival material at the Annual meeting was discussed as a way of kicking off our 2011 Centennial- focus on our past as we look forward. Recording long time members' memories is also an idea worth pursuing. Jaime Edgar's DVD of the Garden Club History can be presented as a loop/stream at the Annual Meeting (Lindsay Jones was mentioned as someone who might help with this.)

Photography Class at the Annual Meeting

Varner said the existing schedule would be used. There was mention of adding a *tree class* to the schedule. It was decided we would not use GCA judges. Potential judges were discussed briefly – Bitsy's daughter-in-law for one- who could comment and critique ("judging" being secondary). This class will be geared toward *learning* what makes effective garden photography.

Lindsay Matthews expressed concern about the time (2:00P.M) of the Annual meeting and asked if a different time might be more convenient especially for young mothers. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that preserving the legacy of the afternoon tea was important but an effort should be made to contact our younger members well in advance and to encourage them to attend. Lindsay volunteered to do this.

Betsy Botzo a long standing, involved BGC member died. Suzanne will write a note to the family and a Memorial will be read at the Annual meeting. It was suggested that Suzanne speak to Anne McDuffie and Mimi Mitchell about memories of Betsy to be included in the tribute.

Horticulture: Dominique Buaron outlined GCA's 2013 Theme: Trees, Our Living Legacy. GCA will celebrate its centennial in June 2013 and this is a way for all Clubs to take part in this exciting milestone. "The first step will be for each club to select and learn about an individual tree or group of trees that is significant. The selection may be based on historical significance, need for preservation, beauty or uniqueness, sustainability or environmental value." Suggested timeline:

- By March 2009: Clubs select trees and define their projects in written reports to zone representatives
- 2009-2013: Clubs carry out their projects and send annual reports to their zone horticulture representatives.
- 2012-2013: Clubs prepare and submit final reports for use in the 2013 Centennial celebration.

Several ideas for BGC were discussed that centered around the Casey Tree project in Washington, D.C. Virginia and Heather said they would begin to research the possibility of using the Casey Tree Project (or parts of it) as a template for BGC's tree project.

The Annual meeting will be held in May in Providence, R.I. The Hort. Committee should look on the GCA website for the Hort schedule to fulfill BGC entry requirements.

Conservation: see Environmental Summit

Environmental Summit: Ellen gave an update on the tremendous momentum of the Summit scheduled for January 31st at Fox Lane High School. There are 100 partners and 85 speakers and lunch for attendees will be provided by a vast network of local growers and suppliers. (Bedford Garden Club will have an expo table presenting the Water exhibit presented at *Under a Tuscan Sun*.) The Summit will be documented and filmed so the format may be used by other communities and GCA Clubs. Ellen explained that the Summit is the first step in a larger environmental effort. Entities will be created to address the issues of transportation, landscape, waste/recycling, water and these will be segmented into schools, businesses, and community. Suzanne Bowers and Lindsay Matthews will organize the raffle. Suzanne will help organize the Book Table.

The previously circulated motion to allocate \$5000 for the Summit was passed.

Membership: Suzanne said that the letters for proposed membership were needed by the end of February for voting on April 1. The April 15th meeting would be the new members' first meeting. Suzanne mentioned there were 9 spaces available and that given the high interest among Club members to propose new members, BGC might find itself in the position of creating a waiting list.

Next Executive Meeting: February 4, 2009 at the home of Virginia Maybank.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

