

Minutes of Friends of the Garden

September 8, 2011

Board Members Present: George Deatz, Dr. Bob Kipfer, Gail Wright, Don Akers, Carla Beezley, Bob Childress, Christine Chiu, Major Close, Nancy Hopkins, Dr. Stan Horsch, Cindy Baird, Tom Lakowske, Jeanne Duffey.

Guests Present: There were 18 guests present.

Minutes: Gail distributed the August minutes by email. Bob Kipfer moved to accept; the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kauleen distributed the August treasurer's report by email. Bob Kipfer moved to accept; the report was approved.

Bylaws Change: Bob Kipfer read the changes proposed in the Bylaws; see attached. The changes were voted on and all approved.

Development Committee: Jeanne Duffey reported that she and Christine are working on a fundraising booklet for the Sensory Garden. The Greene Magazine will be out on Monday; they are going to six issues a year. Nancy Hopkins reported that \$4200 has been raised for the Sensory Garden. A membership party will be held for FOG members on October 16; volunteers are needed to help cook hot dogs. Tickets are being sold for the Bettine Clement concert. There are only 120 available and the cost is \$25. George D. reported that there are 850 FOG members; the goal is still 1000 members by the end of this year. Dues are used to build and expand the gardens. Jeanne has a news release for the Gray Campbell event on September 17 and will be sending one out for the Monarch tagging on October 1.

George D reported that the FOG website is undergoing changes and is being updated.

The Speakers Bureau has been active. Lee Coates recently spoke to the Cherry Court Garden Club about Japanese Maples.

Garden Committee: Bob Childress reported the following:

A work group of 20-25 is scheduled to help lay stone in the Dwarf Conifer Garden on Friday September 16. Saturday they will help in the Redbud Garden and in the Winter Garden.

A schedule needs to be set up for spraying fungicide in the Dwarf Conifer Garden.

Pre-emergent is being used to control weeds; a source that would sell to FOG at cost has been recommended.

Tom Finnie is funding the Dogwood Garden. Funds are available for 10 years for development and irrigation. Shade trees are needed.

Irrigation has just been installed in the Shrub and Viburnum Garden, which was paid for by the Close Trust. Irrigation is needed in the Redbud Garden and the turf area needs to be improved. Scott Cunningham made a motion that we approve the expenditure of \$4000 for the irrigation of the Redbud Garden. The motion was approved.

George D. thanked Stan Horsch for all his work weeding and watering in the Redbud Garden. The garden looks really good. Stan's son and next-door neighbor also helped. All new gardens will have irrigation. The laser engraver is in the building. This is a joint venture between FOG and Master Gardeners with Parks housing, maintaining, and buying materials. Katie reported that 12 volunteers have signed up for training, which is planned for September 12, & 13. The first day they will be setting it up and the second day will be hands on. There will be further opportunities for training later.

Butterfly House: Scott reported that Bill Roston hosted over 1000 visitors by himself on Labor Day. There are now 30 Docents. Lisa B. has over 100 hours. Lisa and Christine worked on a brochure for Monarch tagging. There are 200 tags this year and it will be hands on. They will try to keep the House open until October 15 for the 1-year anniversary; the official closing is October 2. There are 3 teams of Junior Docents (parent and child). They will try to be more aggressive going to the schools during the winter months to recruit more Junior Docents.

George D. announced that Ruth Arneson's mother passed away on September 2. Sam Webber passed away; she was a frequent contributor to FOG with her blogs and videos of the gardens.

Nominating Committee: Marthe passed around a card for all to sign for Ruth Arneson in sympathy after her mother passed away. Marthe feels we have an all-star group for the prospective Board members; there are 10 new for this year. Marthe gave a summary of the new member's interests and introduced them. The new proposed members are Brent Bothwell Palmer, Susan Cardwell, Kathy Sheppard, Linda Whiting, Joe Kleiber, Lisa Bakerink, J.J. Averett, Deanna Armstrong, Avis Holloway, and Marthe Close. The new Advisory Board was announced and George thanked them for moving over. The members of the Advisory Board are Major Close, Stan Horsch, Ruth Arneson, Bob Kipfer, Don Akers, and Gabrielle White. The proposed Board will be voted on at the October meeting and the officers will be presented at the November meeting and elected in December. The Botanical Society has elected to merge with FOG in October and Peter Longley will become an ex officio Board member along with Katie, which will also be voted on in October.

Guest Speaker: Jodie Adams, Director of the Parks Department was our guest speaker. She praised FOG members for doing a tremendous job, but we have gone beyond our initial goal. An Executive Director would help to the organization to

develop faster and to be more organized. He or She could work more with education and donors. Parks has had success with other groups such as Friends of the Zoo and Greenways with an Executive Director and the groups stay autonomous. She thinks FOG is ready for this step, and has gone way beyond a volunteer position. George Deatz would be her pick for this position for his leadership ability. This position would be part time at first, but she sees it developing into a full time position.

Katie Steinhoff reported on the 1-year anniversary celebration of the Botanical Center on October 14,15,and 16. There will be solar tram tours, Tablesapes, activities for school children and musical groups from Mexico. Tres Fromme will be here on Saturday and will talk about Edible Gardens and how to make it happen here. At noon there will be concerts on the lawn. The Fog volunteer table will be set up at 11 am.

George D. reminded everyone if they have a comment about the FOG Board members next month to let him, Marthe, or Bob K. know as the slate needs to be in place by the end of the year.

Bob Childress moved to adjourn at 0625.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Wright, Secretary.