

NOVEMBER 12, 2019 GENERAL MEETING

WHITE ROCK & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by President, Patti Wolczuk.

Patti gave a warm greeting to all at today's meeting. She then welcomed two new members, Bridgette and Jennifer, and two guests, Kim and Nancy.

Last month's minutes were approved as written per motion by Louise and seconded by Melanie. There was a unanimous vote of approval.

Iris Peacosh presented "Show and Tell." She brought two planters that are for inside our homes. One container was red and shall look festive during the holiday season, and the other container was a white basket. Each had a variety of plants of various heights and colour, with the red container also holding pine cones and sticks of cinnamon. The arrangement in the red container was won by our President, Patti.

Another member of our club, Fran Deptuk, gave a presentation about growing kiwi plants. She has been doing this in her garden for the past fifteen years. At times it has been a frustrating experience for Fran, but this year she has had success – as evidenced by her harvest of 60 kiwis.

Mary Openshaw spoke to us about dahlia care, with a detailed explanation given regarding care of the tubers during the winter season. Please refer to the section of this month's Club's newsletter in which Mary wrote out instructions (including an illustration) on this topic. Mary invited us to speak with her if we would like further help caring for our dahlias.

Treasurer's Report: Club Treasurer, Lorna Bury, reviewed last month's finances. She reviewed last month's expenditures and income. Lorna concluded by giving our balance stating indicating that it is a healthy one.

Vice President's Report: Our VP, Collene Ford, spoke about the Buddy System that she had implemented this autumn. She said that eight of our members have signed on to be a "Buddy" for new members, and she asked if another three people could sign on in this role. She invited interested parties to approach her.

Collene went on to explain that our Executive Meetings will be held at Camp Alexandra for one more month, and that in January we will be holding the meetings at Amica, a new health care facility in White Rock.

Membership: The Director, Tim Roark, reported that we now have 83 members.

Programs: The Program Director, Margrit Elmiger-Isert, spoke about several upcoming events. In December we will have our Christmas party that will include live entertainment. We were asked to bring

treats for us to enjoy during our party. At our January meeting we will have our annual pot luck. At our February meeting we will have a guest speaker who will address "soil amendments."

Margrit spoke about a possible trip to Victoria. It is in the planning stages. The plan is for us to charter a bus, take the 9:00 am ferry to Victoria and return on the 5:00 pm ferry. This would mean we would get back to South Surrey by about 7:00 pm. Margrit asked our members to indicate by vote if these hours would be acceptable. All raised their hands to indicate "yes." Our outing will be to visit The Garden Horticulture Centre of the Pacific. As bus charters are costly, a small fee may be required from all who attend this outing.

Plants Plus: Mary reviewed what was for sale today. She encouraged our members to continue to donate items for the plant table's sale. She mentioned that there is a box of various items that could be of use making Christmas arrangements (that we donate to Come Share Society). The box is located in at the entrance to the hall. We were told that we could take whatever we felt we could use.

Newsletter: Director, John Davidson, said there is nothing new to report. He was again congratulated for the excellent publication that he does for our Club.

Publicity: There was discussion about our pamphlets and possible posters that may be created. There will be money for these items in next year's budget.

Parlour Show: Director, Donna, stated that she will be buying more rosettes and reviewing with Darlene the status of our trophies.

Website: Beverly Sass reported that the Website "is coming along" and that she hopes that it will be done by the end of this year. Bev said that we may have a demo of the Website at next month's General Meeting.

Past President: Past President, Melanie Rantucci, stated that she is continuing to work on recruiting members for next year's Executive. She welcomed interested parties to approach her.

We adjourned for a break to enjoy treats and visit, and to have a chance to look at items that had been brought for our Parlour Show, and to see what was for sale at the Plants Plus Table. We resumed our meeting at 3:05 pm.

Margrit told us about her positive experience at last month's BC Council of Garden Club meeting. She shared the good news that she was part of the group that received the award for best table setting. We also congratulated our own Beverly Sass who won the award for first prize in Novice Arrangement.

Parlour Show for November 2019: Director, Donna Lawson, said she was very happy with the number of items that were brought for today's parlour show. She spoke about the variety and good quality of the exhibits. The first prize award for Advanced Floral Art was won by Margaret Maddocks. An award was given to Linda Martin for her mixed folige and floral arrangement and also the first prize for Novice Floral Art. Donna spoke about the contemporary exhibits which are minimalist in design compared to the traditional arrangements- "less is best" in this category.

Christmas Donations: Donna reminded us to bring in our small festive arrangements that we do every year for Come Share Society. She reminded us that the arrangements should have no fresh flowers nor candies.

Patti spoke about our Club's members making contributions to the Food Bank. This shall be done at next month's meeting with the request being for cash or a gift card redeemable at a grocery store.

Budget for 2020: Patti reviewed Proposed Budget for 2020. It was approved by the Executive at October's meeting. An overview of this budget can be found in a document sent by John Davidson via email on 10th of November. (It is an attachment to the agenda of today's meeting). It was explained that we have a healthy bank balance – some of which we can access should we exceed income. It is projected that we might choose to do this next year. According to the proposed budget, we may require \$1543 which exceeds our income. Patti explained why: we have hired someone to “set up and take down” prior to our monthly meeting, we would like to rent the Ocean Park Hall for the Friday before our plant sale on Saturday, bus costs and insurance costs have gone up, we have costs for the Club's pamphlets and business cards, and The Executive has recommended that the Club spend some money for workshops and possibly an additional field trip. Following Patti's presentation, discussion followed with one member expressing concern about it being a deficit budget. Patti and Linda addressed this concern, and agreed that we would not want to annually run a deficit. The decision needed to be made whether or not to accept the budget. A motion to accept it was made by Marilyn Gillan and seconded by Frances O'Grady. A vote was then taken and the motion passed.

Gifts Won: Francis O'Grady won a decorative placemat contributed by Sharon.

50/50 Draw: Lil Penner was the winner of \$62.00

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Linda Martin, Club Secretary