

Minutes of RIFGC Board Meeting
December 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order at the Roger Williams Park Casino at 10:16 am by President Cathy Moore, who called the roll. 20 Clubs were represented.

President-Elect Blakely Szosz reported that she's thinking about ways to raise money since the February Flower Show has ceased to exist. At least \$8,000 to \$10,000 is needed each year for RIFGC operations, which covers such things as awards, NGC dues, region dues, rent at the casino, accounting services, and insurance coverage.

Blakely introduced the possibility of seeking sponsors (such as nurseries or other businesses frequented by our members) for RIFGC and our special events. They could be listed on a special page of the website. They might be offered an annual renewal option, right around the time of our dues. These sponsorships could be written off by businesses since RIFGC is a 501c3. It might be possible to earmark the money given by a sponsor for a particular item. For instance, Revolutions catering gave \$100 specifically for Habitat for Humanity.

In discussion, Janice Panoff said that South County had made \$20,000 this year from sponsors who would be listed in the program booklet for their upcoming house tour. Blakely would like to talk with others who have had such experiences.

Corresponding Secretary Marnie Sandham reported that she'd received a nice letter from Portsmouth thanking RIFGC for April's grant.

She also received one from Cindy Wood.

Marnie asked that Clubs PLEASE update information with her about their incoming Presidents. She reminded us that National Gardener (which is currently available for \$8 per year) is given free to all Club presidents.

Blakely pointed out that there are great speakers listed in National Gardener. Vera Bowen said that National Gardener will soon be going electronic. She also mentioned that Keeping in Touch is now electronic.

First Vice President Deb Ort reported that Ocean State Orchid Society has become an affiliate member of RIFCC.

Treasurer Bernie Larivee gave a financial report for the period September 1 to November 30, 2016.

Checking balance on 9/1	was \$39,669.09
Deposits since 9/1	totaled \$ 3,061.50
<u>Cash disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 3,336.62</u>
Checking balance on 11/30	\$39,393.97
<u>Total for CDs/money market</u>	<u>\$65,302.27</u>
Total balance for RIFGC	\$104,696.24

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting: Chair De Feldman reminded members that the meeting will be April 27 at Quidnessett Country Club. \$37 per person. Speaker Thelma Shoneman will be presenting "Floral Designs Inspired by Fabulous Gardens." Reservations and checks are being taken by Lisa Pollack. Deadline for reservations is April 20. Deadline to request refunds for unused reservations is April 1.

Bee Gap: Chair Marnie Sandham reminded us all that gardening, conservation-related, and pollinator-related items, such as plants and tools make great holiday presents. So do bees, for April or July hatching.

Blue Star: Chair Candace Morgenstern reported that Chatham Village's dedication has been scheduled for Memorial Day, 2017. Their check is in and the plaque is being made.

Education Day: Cathy Moore reported that this was a great success and announced that next year's Ed Day will be held at the Casino.

Habitat for Humanity: Cathy Moore reported that nearly \$1490 has been raised so far and will allow us to plant one home this upcoming Spring.

Horticulture: Chair Linda Alves encouraged us all to bring in winter greens, remarking that the sights and smells of the outdoors in our own homes can be quite therapeutic.

Cathy said that since we still haven't had a hard freeze her hydrangeas are all still blue, she has daffodils sprouting, and that a friend in Connecticut has iris blooming in her yard.

Life Member: President Sharon Gainey announced the next event will take place July 27 at the Dunes Club. She encourage clubs to think about giving a gift of membership in LMG to incoming and outgoing Presidents.

Scholarship Chair Lynne Merrill reminded us that all scholarship applicants must be submitted to NGC by March 1, so RI's scholarship recipient must be chosen by February 1. So far she knows of two applicants.

NEWS: Editor Blakely Szosz said that the deadline for Winter NEWS articles is December 5. The issue will cover December, January, and February and will be distributed before Christmas. Blakely asked that members send photos to be included, as well as dates for upcoming 2017 events in their garden clubs.

Website: Chair Adelaide Clifford says that as soon as she's got information it will be posted on the site. All information should go to Cathy Moore for approval first.

Reminder re. websites:

RIFGC site is www.rigardenclubs.org Password is flowers

NGC site is www.gardenclub.org Password is flight

Announcements:

There will be a RIFGC Board meeting this February 23, instead of the Flower Show. It is hoped that a speaker will be presenting.

Janice Panoff reminded all that the South County house tour will take place on Saturday, December 3. Two of the six homes included are 18th-century homes. Proceeds will benefit local school gardens and efforts to resurrect the American Chestnut Tree.

Vera Bowen reminded all that the Ruth Anderson presentation will take place on Thursday June 15 at St. Andrew's School in Barrington. Tickets are \$15 each prior to April 1, and \$20 after that.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am for a potluck holiday luncheon and a floral demonstration by Barbara Blossom on four of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pollack, Recording Secretary