



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs

Board Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2017

President Blakely Szosz called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Roll call was taken with 15 clubs present and 8 absent.

Minutes of the June 1, 2017 board meeting were approved as previously circulated and will be filed. Special guest Lesley Lambert from Roger Williams Botanical Center was introduced and updated us on the improvements being made at the Center under the newly appointed Director. A lot of space transformation such as in Greenhouse 3, a Flavor Lab, and Education Programs are being upgraded. There are many tour options available for groups which can include lunches and we were encouraged to consider RWP Botanical Center for events.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Pollack reported that as of June 6, 2017 the checking accounts at bank of America were closed. On June 20 an operating account at Pawtucket Credit Union was opened with funds from the B of A checking account and the annual luncheon for an opening balance of \$35,186.85. Major deposits for the month included \$3,052.50 in club dues, representing 25 clubs, 2 affiliates and 1067 members. And net proceeds from the Polo match fundraiser of \$1,369.95. (69 tickets were sold!) Major disbursements included insurance, Habitat for Humanity and NGC dues (1,077) totaling \$10,189.62, leaving the operating account balance at \$27,961.93 as of 9/27/17. Itemized report will be filed with these minutes.

Couple of items worth noting: \$2,000 is earmarked for seed money for the Annual Luncheon and will be moved into a separate operating account at a later date. Also, the RIFGC "properties" storage facility was moved to Rte. 6 Self Storage in Swansea @ \$209 per month and will be a cost savings of over \$100 per month as well as provide easier access to the items. An updated inventory list will be forthcoming and posted on the RIFGC website.

Also importantly, RIFGC has opened a PO BOX for ease of sending in reservations and ticket monies among other things. Address is :

RIFGC (important to use) PO BOX 2053 Providence, RI 02905 .

Blakely recognized Adelaide Clifford, Lisa Pollack and Vera Bowen's hard work over the summer regarding the Finance Committee and getting everything in order.

Finance Committee Chair Vera Bowen reported that a few changes have been made in order to streamline the financial books : (1) When requesting reimbursement for expenses, a request for such needs to be made using the newly developed form, which is located on RIFGC website (Sign in : "Member" Password: "Flowers") and should be sent to Lisa Pollack . (2) Any expense reimbursement must be made within 60 days of occurrence or it will not be paid. There were a few instances of RIFGC receiving bills that were at least 6 months old and it creates a headache for the bookkeeping. (3) RIFGC 2

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will no longer be paying any late fees incurred when bills are not submitted on a timely basis. It reflects badly on the club.

NGC NEWS: Blakely, Vera Bowen, De Feldman and Cathy Thomas attended the NGC Board Meeting in St. Louis. There were some interesting presentations made including Urban Buds, a St. Louis concern, which highlights the trend of field to vase (modeled after farm to table trend); Susan Yoder with "Seed Your Future" , which hopes to attract more youth developing skills in the horticultural trades . Both have good website information. "Plant America "grants are available for new or refreshing club garden projects. Deadlines for applying for grant money is 11/1/17 with award notification by 1/31/18. Also available are grants from Ames Tools (tools for Youth projects) and Espoma, who will give 20 garden clubs up to \$250 worth of plant food products. Information is on NGC website (sign in: "Member" Password: "Pumpkin"). A new children's book is available called "Saved Seed" and can be ordered thru NGC on website.

NGC is collecting from member clubs for a National Disaster Relief Fund and at the October Board meeting RIFGC will collect whatever funds our member clubs have been able to collect. Please make a check payable to the RIFGC and in turn RIFGC will send one check to NGC for the fund, with a list of participating clubs in the state.

RIFGC NEWS: - Blakely reminded us that there is now an established wholesale account at Sylvan's Nursery in Westport, MA for use by clubs in their planting projects. Blakely has the price list and orders need to be coordinated through her.

Jim Donahue of the Newport Preservation Society contacted Blakely to say that RIFGC clubs were invited to participate in Christmas in Newport by decorating a mantelpiece at Marble House. Installations are due on 11/15 and NPPS will donate the money for the decorations and then clubs are welcome to take back the materials and sell them as a fundraiser for their clubs. Contact Blakely if interested.

Blakely reminded clubs that RIFGC has a lot a staging property and items available for clubs to borrow for flower shows. Large backdrop panels no longer being used were advertised on Craig's List and interesting that it was St. Andrew's School who ended up with the donation! Fitting as they hosted the floral design lecture in June.

Please remember to send anything for promotion to Blakely and she will see it featured via social media. Immediately following today's meeting, Jane Donnelly and Adelaide Clifford were to be available to discuss IT issues.

Reports of the Officers

1stVP Deb Ort- N/A

Corresponding Secretary Linda Alves sent a sympathy card to Anne Huntoon and family ; updated the Presidents list which she distributed and will make sure her email blasts include the RIFGC Committee Chairs as well as Presidents. Candace Morgenstern requested that the Past RIFGC Presidents also be included in the "blasts".

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Standing Committee Reports

Annual Luncheon: Kathy LaRiviere is one of the Co-Chairs, said it will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at the Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington. Semia of "Flowers by Semia" will be the designer/presenter featured. Stay tuned for more information re: Cost, Menu etc.

-Blue Star -N/A

Education Day will be held at the RW Casino (not the Botanical Ctr) on Wednesday, November 8. Stay tuned for events, one of which will be Ikebana instruction led by Elaine DiChiara. Lisa Pollack will take registrations and a box lunch will be available.

- Flower Show and Symposium-

Vera announced the NE Garden Clubs are hosting a show at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick in conjunction with the New England regional Annual meeting and NGC Symposium on Monday afternoon October 30th. Barbara Blossom wrote the schedule and there are a few spots available for entries (3 in grouped mass design, 2 in creative armature, 2 in creative featuring plant material and 1 petite design..) Contact Barbara or Vera for more information.

Following the NE Garden Annual meeting is NGC symposium which is the 45th, on Nov. 1-2. To date 91 have signed up representing 13 different states. Our national president and past NGC president are planning to attend. All are welcome and encouraged to attend part or all for the events. Please see the RIFGC Newsletter or RIFGC website for all the details. Contact Vicki Iannuccillo for registration.

There is a horticulture demonstration and foliage houseplants or branches of certain ornamental shrubs (dogwood) are requested. Contact Marge De Angelis if you have anything to contribute.

The new handbook is large and cumbersome but available thru NGC. Also a digital PDF version available from NGC for \$25.. See NGC website.

Habitat for Humanity – Linda Alves reported on the successful completion of the project at 379 Friendship Street in Providence in June. On the 6/3 sod was laid in the yard along with a cedar swing, and the owners were given garden gloves and some tools. The owners were worried about liability with increased insurance rates due to excessive tree limbs so those were pruned. On 6/17 the 2nd phase was finished with container plantings and boxwoods, roses, lilies. Hostas were donated from Bristol Garden Club. Participants were Vera Bowen, Blakely and Noah Szosz, Deb Ort, Anne Gralnek and Linda Alves. The RIGC clubs stepped up to make the donations happen for the habitat project and there is a huge positive impact on the neighborhood.

Hospitality-Sharon Gainey thanked Bristol garden Club for providing refreshments and solicited names for future meetings. Carol Glanville, President of Bristol Garden Club, made a presentation about their "RainKeep" project on Silver Creek in Bristol to keep their garden project "Mrs. Perry's Garden" hydrated. This can be seen on the east side of Hope Street as approaching downtown Bristol.

Judges Council- Mtg. to be held on 10/2.

Life Member Group- Donations were received from Western Cranston, Seaside and Chatham Village and they were thanked. Please encourage all club members to join. The next LMG luncheon date will be Thursday, 7/26/18 with location and "speaker" TBD.

Newsletter/Photography Please see the current newsletter for all these announcements. Its filled with information on National and State level. Deadline for inclusions in next newsletter in November 1 to get out a "holiday" edition. Otherwise, the next edition for the spring, the deadline will be January 15. Please do not wait to submit information about events and dates of upcoming events as Blakely would like to avoid duplication of dates for clubs as much as possible... Advance notice helps with this.

Youth and Junior- Julie Christina announced she is carrying on the tradition of Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster contests. There is a January deadline for these entries. She also spoke about encouraging planting native plants and Bringing Nature Home project... hoping that every club might have a school that could plant a native tree seed .. She is working on some ideas for this.

New Business- RI Builders Association bought the rights to the RI Spring Garden and Flower Show and is hosting the Home and Garden Show at the Conventions center on Thursday April 5-Sun the 8th, 2018.

They would like to “elevate” the show and have participation from RIFGC with a Flower show... Set up will be 4/2-4/4 (M-W) and refreshments will be supplied by RIBA, along with costs for floral material. Deb Ort and Vera Bowen are Chairs for this event.

Old Business: RIFGC has decided to move forward with requesting the names, addresses and contact information from all clubs for each of its members. This will not be published anywhere, but kept as part of RIFGC records for contacting purposes only and verifying membership numbers to correspond with dues payments. These member lists should be sent to either Adelaide Clifford or Lisa Pollack.

Horticulture Report: Mary Sunderlin gave us a Fall Task List for our gardens ,including cleaning up debris and tools, appropriate dividing, transplanting tips and bringing in houseplants

Announcements:

Design Study: January and March have couple of openings in each group.

Tiverton: 10/23 hosting a Photography Show from 3:00 to 8:300. Tiverton Library

Bristol:10/21 Pumpkin Patch and bake sale as a fundraiser for the RainKeep in Mrs’ Perry’s Garden 10-2

Gentian: 10/17 Program “Mushroom Hunting in New England” all invited to.

Barrington: See flyer list of year’s programs. All are invited.

Portsmouth- Annual plant Sale Saturday 9/30 9-1.

Meeting adjourned 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmy Reade

Corresponding Secretary, RIFGC