

Minutes of the RIFGC Executive Board Meeting: February 24, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Judy Hager at 10:05AM in the ballroom of the RI Convention Center in Providence. In the absence of the recording secretary, 1st Vice President Sandi Tinyk recorded the minutes of the meeting. The role was not called per se due to minimal attendance; the following club presidents and/or representatives verbally indicated their club's presence: Barrington, Bayberry, Bristol, Chatham Village, Cindywood, Dirt Gardeners, Edgewood, Gentian, Hameho, Seaside, South County, Tiverton, and Westerly.

Minutes of the January board meeting, which were e-mailed, were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Adelaide Clifford read the financial report. As of February 20, cash receipts totaled \$4,479.00; disbursements during this period were \$2,916.50, and our checking account balance is \$5,221.26. CD and Money Market funds total \$98,674.26. The total of all RIFGC accounts is \$103,895.52.

President's Report: Before her report, President Judy Hager was recognized and applauded for her leadership and hard work as chairman of the show, and was presented with flowers by Immediate Past President, Vera Bowen. Judy thanked all who entered designs and horticulture and those who worked on the Flower Show, *Through the Eyes of a Child*, with particular reference to those who painted the fence. She commented on the painting assistance of Hope High School Junior ROTC members who were acquiring points for community service. Once again, Tom and Mike, from Chuck Carberry's crew, provided invaluable assistance in numerous ways as the show was set up. Following the announcement of winners of the raffle and the Beanie Babies contest at 6:00PM on Sunday, the show will be broken down; anyone wishing to help is most welcome.

In other matters, Judy and Doris Stephens had applied for the NGC Award of Excellence #23 on behalf of Southside Community Land Trust as a non-member and they have won. Kathryn Brown, SSCLT executive director, will represent the organization at the NGC annual meeting in May in Buffalo, and will also attend the RIFGC annual luncheon in April. The Federation plans to act as a consultant to the Land Trust for their fall garden tour, profits from which will help them to raise funds for their projects. We will also work with them on a temporary green space on the I-Way will be developed, and projects include bees and wildflowers and other plans.

1st Vice president, Sandi Tinyk, noted that due to Bristol and Portsmouth garden clubs' Wednesday meeting days, the date of the September Educational Day will be changed, hopefully to Thursday, September 13. The Botanical Garden staff have been asked to host the meeting on the 13th but have not yet responded, although it is highly likely that this will be approved. Clubs will be notified as soon as possible, as some of the clubs are already working on their yearbooks.

2nd Vice president Cathy Moore earned numerous blue ribbons at our flower show, for her design and horticulture entries, as well as garnering all of the top awards; congratulations! Cathy will serve as flower show chairman next year, the show's 20th year, and is hoping to hear from committee chairmen and all who worked on the show in terms of suggestions, criticisms, and feedback, both positive and negative. The theme for next year's show is Memories.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Annual Meeting: Vicki Iannuccillo. Tickets for the April 26 annual meeting are still available. The annual meeting will be held at 10:00AM, with pre-luncheon cocktails and shopping at 11:30. The luncheon will begin at Noon; tables of 10 will be placed in a circular formation around the dance floor, where various ballroom dances, to be reflected in floral designs, will be performed. Free valet parking will be available at the conference center entrance (you do not need to go through the casino).

Awards: The Awards Committee will meet Thursday, March 1. Judy thanked the presidents who participated in the January forum and provided valuable insight into the role of silver, rosettes, monetary awards and certificates in the future. Their suggestions will be discussed at the awards committee meeting, then recommendations will go on to the finance committee and ultimately back to the board.

Design Study Groups: The Beginners and Advanced groups will both meet on April 13 in Westerly, with beginners meeting in the morning and the advanced group, in the afternoon.

Life Member: Vice Chairman BJ Stephens announced that the spring luncheon will be held on May 31 at the Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington. The guest speaker, Alan Banks, is an expert on Frederick Law Olmstead. Tickets @ \$35 may be purchased by sending a check to the Life Member Corresponding Secretary, Vera Bowen.

Life Member Scholarships: The deadline to submit applications to Janice Panoff is March 1. College students in their sophomore, junior and senior years and graduate students pursuing a master's degree in environmental studies, landscape design, horticulture, and related subjects are eligible to apply.

Member Services: Grace Klinger announced that 7 calendars are left and may be purchased for \$5. They will go to the flower show raffle area and see if they can be sold there.

News: The March 1 issue is the Presidents issue; Holly has e-mailed the club presidents to remind them that reports are due immediately. Judy read aloud the clubs that have submitted a report and reminded all that they were due on Feb. 1st. All NEWS items are requested to be sent to Cheryl Heroux, cahutch2@verizon.net in Word format.

Announcements:

Bonnie Fluck advised that in recognition of Arbor Day in April, clubs may purchase a tree to be planted in a mass planting.

Vera noted that today's afternoon tea is a joint effort by RIFGC and the RI Horticultural Society. Income from the tea will help to defray the cost of the animals purchased for the children's garden at the prison, and have been used in staging for this year's show.

New Business:

Judy noted that the June RIFGC Executive Board Meeting has become a scheduling challenge, as it falls at the same time as the Newport Flower Show, in which many of our members participate; and, many people are already away for summer vacations. **A motion was made, seconded and passed to consolidate the May and June meetings this year, to take place on June 7, the first Thursday in June.** If we opt to do this on a permanent basis, a by-law change will be required.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held on March 22 at the Casino.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandi Tinyk, Recording Secretary Pro Tem