RIFGC Board Meeting

October 22, 2020

President Deb Ort called the meeting to order via Zoom at 10:00 AM.

Roll Call was read with 15 clubs present and 6 additional people in attendance.

The minutes of the September meeting were sent electronically. No changes were made. The minutes stand approved as sent.

The financial report was given by Candace Morgenstern, chair of the finance committee.

Treasurer’s Report

There is still one club that has NOT paid their dues. They will be notified by email.

September 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020

 Operating Account

**Beginning balance, September 1, 2020 $ 28,818.21**

Cash receipts

 Member Club Dues 154.00

 TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS 154.00

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Contribution-RWP Revolving Fund 500.00

 Trees for Clubs Arbor Day 748.27

 President’s Expenses 112.27

 NGC- Penny Pines 1,700.00

 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 3,060.54

**Ending balance, September 30, 2020 $ 25,911.67**

The Treasurer’s Report will be filed for audit.

Reports of the Executive Board:

President’s report.

President Deb Ort welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting. Deb attended on September 15 the NGC President’s Zoom meeting. Deadline for NGC awards is January 15 unless otherwise noted. The deadline for *Award of Excellence* is January 1, 2021. At the NEGC Zoom meeting RIFGC was awarded 4 awards. Congratulations to **Barrington Garden Club** who won 3 awards, *The Sears Civic Beautification Award, The Marie E. Lewis Conservation of Natural Resources Award, and The Cornelius William Watson Award for Historic Preservation.* The **Western Cranston Garden Club** won the *Excellence in Teamwork Award.*

Deb announced it will not be possible to hold a holiday event this year.

Deb requested after the reports of the Executive Board and Committee Chairs clubs present speak about events they have been doing with their clubs and any holiday ideas they could share.

**VP Sheryl McGookin:** Sheryl announced the Providence Cultural Society is doing a celebration honoring *Shakespeare’s Head* historic garden. Sheryl was able to locate in RIFGC archives information to assist the Society in their research. Sandi Tinyk stated she is Chair of History for NEGC and would like to be included in information regarding the historical garden.

**Recording Secretary: Nina Kurtz** Nina has some boxes of historical significance from previous secretaries. She will look through her information to share with Sheryl.

**Corresponding Secretary: Kathy LaRiviere:** No report.

**Committee Chairs**

**Annual Meeting-Ann Huntoon**, no report.

**Awards-Kathleen Damiani and Cheryl Celeste** acknowledged the RIFGC receiving 4 awards from NEGC. Cheryl stated it was very nice for RI to win that many awards as only 20 awards were given. Congratulations. Yearbooks should be sent ASAP. Please send 2 books. Deadline for yearbooks is 1/1/21. Youth Chair Awards have been extended to 2/26/21.

**Blue Star Memorial-Sandi Tinyk,** no report. Call Sandi with questions.

**Bylaws-Vera Bowen,** the Bylaws have been updated this year.

**Education Day-Vera Bowen,** there will be 4 dates on Zoom. More information to follow.

**Environmental Concerns-Kathy Bessette,** Kathy reported the Port of Galilee has more than 200 commercial fishermen. In October, a program was launched to improve the port area including dockage, port access, and other upgrades.

**Flower Show Schools-Candace Morgenstern,** Candace stated all activities have been cancelled. The handbook used for reference will be sent out.

**Horticulture-Marg DeAngelis,** no report.

**Habitat for Humanity-Linda Alves,** Linda shared Habitat cannot be done due to COVID. Be Hopeful.

**Hospitality-Linda Alves,** Linda would like to be doing hospitality!

**Design Study-Linda Kirkpatrick,** no report.

**Life Member-Sandi Tinyk,** Sandi recognized Ann Gralnak’s outstanding work on Life Member Scholarships. Funds were depleted and Ann sent out letters to garden clubs and personal friends. $5370.00 was raised. Checks are still being accepted. Barrington was the largest group of donors. 6 new life members and a memorial honoring George Tinyk were added to the Life Member group. Adelaide Clifford asked for a list of donors for thank you letters. Sally Phillips asked the amount of the scholarship? Normal amount of scholarship is $2500, however, if they go on to National GC, they receive $4000 more. Lathy LaRiviere asked if the drive earned as much as the spring luncheon? Sandi responded yes.

**Penny Pines-De Feldman,** Penny Pines raised $1700 from RIFGC.

**Youth-Sheryl McGookin,** Sheryl reported National Youth awards deadline is 1/1/21. She will send more information out in November.

**OLD BUSINESS-no old business.**

**NEW BUSINESS-** There were new club presidents from Edgewood and Cindy Wood garden clubs present. Deb welcomed them to the meeting.

There were no announcements, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

*Following the meeting those GC present shared their activities and speakers during COVID with each other. Clubs participating included Cindy Wood, Sagkonate, Edgewood, Barrington. Sandi Tinyk announced she would chair a committee for updating the Speaker’s Resource Book. Barbara Blossom, Sheryl McGookin, and Nina Kurtz will assist her.*