

## Oceana Garden Club Minutes April 16, 2019

Members present David Asadi (1a), Connie Ferguson (1b), Stephen Ashworth (7b), Frank Danczyk (8b), Danae Danczyk (8b), Teresa Chamberlain-Spradlin (10), Sheri Skvarek (10H), Beth Mushovic (11b), Christine Gorman (12), Kevin Immel (13b), Hoesin Winchester (16b), Nancy McAdams (17a), John Long (17b), Bruce Pahl (18), Peggie Moore (20), Annetta Mabrey (23), Hank Mabrey (23), Mike Nelsen (24), Lori Nichols (24)

Call to order by chair Nancy McAdams at 4:02 PM

**Welcome and Introductions:** Nancy McAdams, Chair (4:02-4:05)

The officers introduced themselves Nancy McAdams- chairperson, Connie Ferguson- cochair, Stephen Ashworth -Secretary, Frank Danczyk- Treasurer.

**Treasurer's Report:** Frank Danczyk (4:05-4:12)

Frank presented the budget, revenues and disbursements (see attached). The revenues were based on 30 member renewals and 5 new members. Current account balances are Savings - \$600.45 and checking – \$1155.93.

Christine Gorman commented that she believed all expenditures needed to be approved by the membership. She suggested that a special meeting be held to approve all expenditures. The chair, Nancy McAdams, said that a budget committee would be set up and that she would look in the Standing Rules for clarification.

Peggy Moore asked for clarification of the placement of the Ant Baits. Nancy explained the selection of locations for the stations.

**Goals:** Nancy McAdams (4:12-4:22)

Nancy stated that the committees are the “heart and soul” of the organization. Participation on the committees along with attendance at meetings are essential for maintaining the garden club. She emphasized that all members should work to make the garden club a “friendly and nice place.”

Cochair Connie Ferguson is working to provide more social activities such as potlucks held at the garden. A survey was distributed to the members in attendance asking for input on the best day and time for club meetings, the best day and time for club social functions and ideas that would increase participation within the club and fundraising ideas. Connie asked if members were interested in more meetings with presentations from volunteer speakers to provide ideas for gardening. (See attached)

Peggie Moore presented her ongoing fund-raiser for Oceana Garden club members. She is selling Mary Kay sunscreen, lip protector, Satin hands, and hand cream to Oceana Garden club members with substantial percentages of the costs returned to the garden club. Members may contact her online [www.marykay.com/peggiemoore](http://www.marykay.com/peggiemoore) or by phone (949) 887-6441. (See attached) Nancy thanked Peggy for her generous offer and encouraged everyone to participate. Nancy also reported on the April 6<sup>th</sup> Share and Wear “You Make It, You Sell It” event. Garden Club members Teresa Chamberlain-Spradlin, Sheri Skvarek, Lori Nichols, and Nancy spent the morning raising money for the club.

**Gardening Needs:** Nancy McAdams (4:22-4:50)

The wild onion infestation in plots 15a and 15b is a critical concern, those two plots are unusable. Peggie Moore and Renée Maricque exchanged plots because of the weeds. Wild onion is hard to get rid of because the whole plant stem and roots need to be removed. Christine Gorman submitted an article on wild onion removal which was posted on the garden club page of the Oceana Seniors website. [www.oceanaseniors.org/activities/gardenclub](http://www.oceanaseniors.org/activities/gardenclub). The vinegar solutions used for other weeds will not work on wild onion and is not good for the soil in the areas where vegetables and flowers will be planted.

Christine Gorman pointed out that vinegar is expensive. John Long suggested that industrial grade vinegar and Epsom salts could be purchased relatively cheaply at wholesale.

Kevin Immel asked if there was a recipe for the vinegar solution that is more effective than others. Several members stated that the most effective way of removing weeds is digging.

Weeding in the common areas is everyone's responsibility. Teresa and Christine have done an outstanding job in coordinating volunteer helpers who do much of the labor required to keep the common area well maintained. The club needs members to supervise the volunteers on weekends. Everyone can spare one Saturday morning having the volunteers sign "Hold Harmless" forms, telling them what needs to be done and serving them treats and drinks. It can be fun. Call Teresa (949-243-5566) to schedule your time.

Several members reported that the landscapers are spraying chemicals for weed abatement. Nancy will schedule a conference with them to express our concerns.

Bruce Pahl volunteered to rent a mower and cut the tall weeds surrounding the garden enclosure. He and Nancy will confer with them about the details.

Although there is no mandatory water conservation measure in effect, last year's mandate was two times a week. Nancy urged all members to conserve water.

Gardeners were reminded to return tools to the 2 tool storage sheds after they have used them. Bruce Pahl will manage tool sharpening and discarding unserviceable tools.

All gardeners are responsible for replacing full barrels with empty ones. Full barrels should be placed in the area near the maintenance building driveway. Empty barrels at curbside should be returned to the barrel storage areas.

**Committees:** Nancy McAdams (4:50-4:55)

A list of 2019 Garden Committees and Respective Leaders was distributed to attendees and everyone not on a committee was encouraged to sign up. (See attached) If you see your name on a committee, please contact the leader to see how you can contribute.

**Website – Gardening Ideas:** Stephen Ashworth (4:55-5:00)

The Communications, Forms and Nominations committee is responsible for publishing garden club events and information in the monthly Hilltop Highlights and on the Oceana webpage. An organizational meeting will be held in the next few weeks. Steve requested that all members submit gardening related articles they have found interesting, recipes, gardening tips, jokes, etc. The goal is a Garden Club Blog for Oceana Garden Club members. Go to [www.oceanaseniors.org/activities/gardenclub](http://www.oceanaseniors.org/activities/gardenclub)

**Pest Control:** Nancy McAdams (5:00-5:10)

The club will continue with the current ant control system this year. The bait is \$100/gallon, and we will need at least three gallons this year. We have \$300 in our budget, so it should be sufficient to cover that cost this year if bait stations aren't vandalized again. Stations will be located as the need dictates. Annetta asked where the stations are located. A station may be located near a plot that is heavily infested. Nancy will place new "POISON" signs on stations.

Nancy asked if members wanted to handle the vermin (rats, mice, etc.) on their own or research a professional such as "Knockout" to do the job. A lively discussion followed. Everyone agreed that more information was needed. Nancy, Connie, and Christine continued the conversation after the meeting adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned (5:10)

**Questions/Comments/Drawing:**

Lori Nelsen reported finding a six-inch snake that could not be positively identified near plot 24. Members are reminded that we do have rattlesnakes around and sometimes in the garden area.

Hoesin Winchester asked for help constructing a "pest proof" garden. Kevin, Bruce, John and others gave her suggestions.

Hoesin won a \$25 gift card to Red Lobster.

(If you have a gift card lying around the house you aren't going to use, donate it to the club for more drawings.)

Submitted April 19, 2019 by

Stephen Ashworth, Secretary