

Oceana Garden club meeting minutes June 19, 2019

Members present; David Asadi (1a), Connie Ferguson (1b), Eileen Costa (4a) Christine Foster (6) Danae Danczyk (8b), Frank Danczyk (8b), Stephen Ashworth (7b), Julie Gardner (9b), Teresa Chamberlain-Spradlin (10), Sheri Skvarek (10-h), Beth Mushovic (11b), Christine Gorman (12), Kevin Immel (13b) Nancy McAdams (17a) Lori Nichols (24), Diane Harris (guest).

Call to order

Chair Nancy McAdams called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Nancy asked that everyone introduce themselves by stating their first name and their favorite thing grown in their garden.

Treasurer's report

Frank Danczyk presented the financials, revenues and disbursements. Current account balances as of May 31, 2019 savings \$600.60 and checking \$978. Checking balance includes a donation from Peggy Moore of \$86 for sale of Mary Kay products to garden club members. Disbursements included \$255.58 for ant bait, \$197.11 for new locks and keys and \$59 for reimbursement to members for supplies and repair items.

Frank presented a flyer from Peggy Moore listing Mary Kay products for sale to garden club members. He asked that members give him ideas for fundraising.

Nancy explained the distribution of the ant bait and requested that members not move the hoses that have been placed for highways for the ants to go from the bait to their nests.

Kevin Immel requested that the club purchase more mulch and compost from Agri-Services. The old mulch and compost piles will be removed in the next two weeks and Nancy will order smaller amounts from Agri-Services.

Acknowledgments

Bruce Pahl was recognized for his work and financial contribution for sharpening the tools in the tool shed. Peggy Moore was thanked for her donation from the Mary Kay sales. Julie Gardner suggested that thank you cards be sent and volunteered to take care of sending the cards.

Secretary's report

Stephen Ashworth explained the deadlines for submissions of articles to the Hilltop Highlights and requested all members submit ideas that can be included in those articles. Teresa Chamberlain-Spradlin suggested that members could write full articles to submit to the officers for inclusion in the Highlights. The secretary requested that members send photographs of their gardens and their produce for inclusion on the Garden Club web page which can be found at www.oceanaseniors.org/activities/garden-club.

The garden club group emails are effective for most communications. However, many of the members use text messaging for more immediate communication. The secretary is compiling members mobile telephone numbers which would allow him to send a group text for emergency notifications. He asked that all members send him their cell phone numbers. Please email your cell phone number to stephen@7palmsoceana.com.

Garden updates and issues

Varmint Control – Nancy introduced a product, **Rat-X**, that is a non-poison substance that is pelletized for use in controlling the rat population. The product is made of sodium and salt. When eaten by the rats, it causes them to experience extreme thirst, so they literally drink themselves to death. **Rat-X** is extremely popular with organic gardeners in North County. There was some concern about harm to other animals, so Nancy suggested that further research be completed.

Water Discipline – Nancy asked for ideas that would help remind gardeners to turn the water off when they leave their plots. The old signs that were attached to both gates faded and were removed. Paper notices in plastic sleeves have replaced them. It was suggested that people use common sense and develop the habit of checking the water **every** time they leave the garden. This is especially important when entering by the north gate.

There is evidence that there is a water pressure problem. Nancy has consulted with maintenance to check the pressure on the back valve. They reported that it is functioning properly. David Asadi reported that when he and Jim Allen were watering plots (1a) and (2) at the same time the water flow was half of what it was when he was watering his plot alone. Nancy will ask maintenance to check the water pressure again on both the front and back valves.

Nancy reported the plot (22) is available. Diane Harris, our guest, has requested that she be allowed to garden plot (22). We welcomed her. She will fill out the paperwork and become our newest gardener.

Plots (15a) and (15b) are being left fallow for the season in order to kill off all the wild onion. John Long and Kevin Immel were thanked for their hard work in clearing those plots Christine Gorman and Nancy are continuing to experiment with vinegar solution on the wild onion.

A keychain with a dolphin emblem with one of the new gate keys was found hanging on the fence. No one knows to whom it belongs. Nancy will keep it until it's claimed.

The serving tongs left at the open garden social were claimed by Lori Nichols.

The green bench, which was located under the pomegranate tree, was reported missing. Anyone having knowledge of it should talk with Nancy.

Connie Ferguson introduced a nifty new weed control tool. She demonstrated its use and told members that there are two located in the tool shed. She requested that everyone spend 10 minutes a week using the tools to clear the pathways of weeds. Please return them to the shed.

Calendar Items

July 24 – Oceanside Museum of Art excursion with activity committee. (Check with the HOA office)

August 24, 4 – 6 PM, Garden Club Social. Silent auction fundraiser in the clubhouse. Bring a drink and appetizer.

Please donate items in good condition for the silent auction. Everyone has items in their garage or sitting around their residence that are new or slightly used. Plan to donate at least one item and email your list of items to the secretary, stephen@7palmsoceana.com. They will be auctioned off to raise money for the garden club. Sheri Skvarek has donated three (brand new) self-watering planters for the auction.

Committees

When the 4-hour mandatory work requirement was discarded, members were asked to volunteer to work on various committees to maintain the community area of the garden. Much of that work has been done by volunteers from the North Coast church. Teresa Chamberlain-Spradlin and Christine Gorman are commended for their efforts in organizing the volunteers. Only a handful of garden club members were willing to provide supervision on the Saturdays and Sundays that the volunteers worked. The members present provided suggestions to the officers to encourage greater participation from ALL garden club members.

NCC will start sending volunteers in September, 2019, if the garden club has members willing to supervise. Please volunteer for a Saturday or Sunday in Sept-November by contacting Nancy McAdams (760-963-2169) before August, 2019.

The secretary will email each garden club member a roster of the committees, the committees chairperson, and its members. Each chairman will be contacting their committee members by telephone to discuss their participation on the committee.

That roster will also be posted on the Oceana Garden club webpage.

Open discussion and concerns

Kevin Immel and Lori Nichols volunteered to create a rock garden with succulents and other plantings in the area north of the Friendship Garden shade structure. They would appreciate help with improving the aesthetics of the area.

The Sharing Table – Plot 15a will be turned into a community sharing site where garden club members can share excess produce and flowers. Lori donated a table and Nancy donated a couple of vases for items needing water. Drop your surplus there and help yourself to the bounty of others. Extra produce from the gardens only. All other material should be left outside the gate at the “Give and Take” table.

Security alert

Lori Nichols reported a very disturbing incident involving a white Volvo SUV with a male driver that occurred on the morning of June 19, 2019. The secretary was asked to send out an email alert to all the members describing the event and reporting that it had been turned over to the Oceanside police with the license number of the Volvo. Members should always be aware of their surroundings and be sure to lock the gate behind them when they enter the garden for their own security.

Drawing

Christine Gorman won a large tube of Mary Kay sunscreen.

Adjourned at 6:15 PM

