

Oceana Garden Club Meeting Minutes October-10-2019

Members present; David Asadi (1a), Connie Ferguson (1b), Jim Allen & Karen Sivy-Allen (3), Eileen Costa (4a), Dan & Susie Malone (5), Danae Danczyk & Frank Danczyk (8b), Stephen Ashworth (7b), , Beth Mushovic (11b), Kevin Immel (13b) Nancy McAdams (17 a), Casey Fitzpatrick (22), Lori Nichols (24), Sheri Skvarek (10-h)

Proxies submitted Scott Rogers (4b), Christine Foster (6), Renee Maricque (7a), Teresa Chamberlain-Spradlin (10), Gordan & Karen Bishop (14)

A quorum was present.

Call to order

Chair Nancy McAdams called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Nancy asked that everyone introduce themselves by stating their first name and what they planned to plant for a winter garden.

Treasurer's report

Frank Danczyk presented the financials, revenues and disbursements. Current account balances as of September 30, 2019, savings \$600.90 and checking \$1012.75. Checking balance includes donations from the OGC White Elephant Sale, \$200.50. Disbursements included \$137.96 to replace stolen ant stations and \$116.85 tools, fencing and repair items.

Acknowledgments

Nancy introduced Robert Long, currently Nancy's helper. Robert is a fantastic cook and brought Dutch squash baked in puff pastry. (Delicious). He is on the Helper waiting list. Robert is cooking meals for Nancy's mom and is willing to cook for others. Our own OGC Chef! Casey Fitzpatrick is the new plot holder in plot 22. Nancy thanked him for numerous activities for the OGC, especially tending Christine Gorman's plot while she was away. He is a welcome addition to our community. Kevin Immel was recognized for his work beautifying the common areas and his general handyman efforts. Hoesin Winchester is always willing to pitch-in where needed. Our many thanks go to her.

Secretary's report

The secretary did not give a report but is adding the following reminders to the minutes.

To help construct an interesting webpage, members should email photographs of their gardens, gardening activities and harvests for inclusion on the Garden Club webpage which can be found at www.oceanaseniors.org/activities/garden-club

The secretary is compiling members mobile telephone numbers which would allow us to send a group text for emergency notifications. All members should send him their cell phone numbers. Please email your cell phone number to stephen@7palmsoceana.com.

Any contributions for articles to be included in the Hilltop Highlights would be GREATLY appreciated.

Proposed changes to the Standing Rules and Procedures

Nancy thanked Rene Maricque, Beth Mushovic, and Stephen Ashworth for working with her on the Rules Committee.

Copies of the proposed rules changes were sent by email to all OGC members and Sherry Jarrett on Oct. 1 to review before the meeting.

Beth Mushovic moved that the proposed changes be adopted. David Asadi seconded the motion.

Discussion.

Kevin Immel asked if there were provisions in the new rules to address problems with gardeners letting their plots become run-down such as plot 15 this past season. Section X(f) gives officers the power to address this situation. Eileen Costa suggested that gardeners share ideas for gardening with other members. Hoesin Winchester asked for clarification of the deadline for payment of dues. Section VI(b) sets the due date as the first meeting in January and the delinquent date of March 1st. John Long expressed concern about possible problems resulting from letting gardens go "fallow." Nancy emphasized the importance of gardeners communicating with the officers to avert any misunderstanding.

The proposed Rules and Procedures changes passed with unanimous consent.

The secretary will make the approved changes and post the new rules on the OGC web page and will email copies to the membership.

Orchard Concerns

John Long described efforts to combat ants and fungus on the fruit trees.

He described using flagging tape coated with petroleum jelly wrapped around the tree trunks to discourage ants. Do not prop up tree limbs with posts. They provide a bridge for the ants.

John informed the members that we have three types of fungus in the garden.

1. Powdery Mildew caused by water standing in leaves after watering. He suggests low watering to prevent the mildew from developing.
2. Black pepper rust which can be treated with Neem oil.
3. Fig tree rust. (A sample of an infected leaf was passed to the members for examination.) John is in contact with an extension agent, who is going to sample the soil under the trees for salt content and fungus.

The fig trees will be drastically pruned back resulting in a loss of the entire crop. **IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE PRUNED LIMBS AND LEAVES BE RAKED AND BAGGED AND PLACED IN THE TRASH. NOT COMPOSTED!**

Please volunteer to rake and bag

John also reported that termites have infested at least one of the fig trees. He has applied insecticide and life is starting to show back in some branches.

Pat Nolan suggested that watering the trees twice a week is too much.

Open discussion and concerns

Kevin Immel presented several ideas for projects he would like the OGC to undertake that would improve the common areas of the garden. The wooden and canvas structure that provides shade to the Friendship Garden needs to be strengthened. He suggested also adding a lattice enclosure to provide privacy and block the unsightly view of the maintenance yard. Kevin also suggests the OGC add additional security lights at the north and south ends of the garden and a curtain be added on the south side of the area to shield the compost and trash barrels for the street. In addition, he would like to plant more greenery and succulents in the common areas. He estimates all of this would cost \$70 to \$175.00 in materials.

John Long asked if the club could plant "cash crops" such as Lemon Grass in the common areas to sell to raise money for the general fund.

Karen Sivy-Allen, a past Chairperson, cautioned that all these proposals be approved by the HOA board before starting construction. She reminded the membership that the HOA owns and controls the grounds and has been reluctant in the past to build permanent structures.

No action was taken. Nancy McAdams will confer with Sherry Jarrett about the proposed construction.

NCC will start sending volunteers in November 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).

Robert Long has removed 11 rats from Nancy's plot #22 in the past two weeks using TOMCAT Secure Kill rat traps with peanut butter for bait. They cost \$6 at Home Depot.

Eileen informed the group that tea bags contain plastic and should be avoided. An infuser and loose-leaf tea would be a good alternative.

2020 Officer Nomination

New officers will be elected at the January 2020 meeting.

Beth Mushovic has volunteered for the office of Treasurer and is working with Frank for a smooth transition. Nancy McAdams has stated that she would be willing to take Connie's place as Co-Chairperson but not the Chairperson. The Secretary's position is open for next year. If you are interested contact Stephen Ashworth 509-592-0620 or stephen@7palmsoceana.com.

CALENDAR ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCEANA INFORMATION FAIR is Saturday October 19, 2019, 10:00 to Noon at the Clubhouse. Call Nancy if you can spend time helping at the club's table.

THE NORTH COUNTY CHURCH in the Month of November will send volunteers to work in the garden if we have members to supervise. Please volunteer.

Adjourned at 6:45 PM