**GARDEN CLUB OF DEARBORN**

 April 11, 2023

***General Meeting Minutes***

Present were 28 members and guest speaker Lara Edwards

Rose Wiggle called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Next, Rose asked if there were any changes to the March 13, 2023 minutes. There being none, a motion was made to accept the minutes by Linda Johnson and seconded by Judy Polcyn. The motion was unanimously accepted.

As the next item of business, Rose gave the Treasurer’s Report for 2023 March in Laurine Griffin’s absence. She reviewed the income and expenses for the month and the balances in the checking, CD, and Savings totaling $15,619.59.

Carol Chrzastek then reported on membership noting that the new member, Sheila Fisher was not able to attend. She then distributed the renewal membership forms for 2023-2024. The form will also be sent out via email. The renewal membership fees are $30. Carol also reminded that the Annual Meeting will be held June 26th and it will be a catered affair.

Marietta Lynch next welcomed the Club’s new member Kim Kovacs-Gucwa and presented her with a pot of tulips.

Terri Bungee reported on the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl 2023 Poster Contest. She noted that none of the 75 posters made it to the State level but each child that participated will receive a certificate and a bracelet. Terri also noted that the prizes for first, second and third place are $35, $20, and $15 respectfully. She then continued reporting that Nowlin School special education teacher reached out for a donation of plants and/or money for a sensory garden they wish to install for the autistic children. Terri reviewed a list of plants they requested and described the garden plans. She also noted that Wayne State University helped with the clean up of the gardens.

A motion was made by Mary Bugeia and seconded by Carol Chrzastek to donate $150 to Nowlin School for their sensory garden. The motion was unanimously passed. It was also noted that plants left over from the May plant sale can be donated to Nowlin.

Linda Johnson next reminded the Club of the upcoming Michigan Garden Club (MGC) Spring Leadership Conference being held Thursday, May 18th at the Southfield Public Library. She reviewed the agenda and the optional tour to the Mary Thompson Farm and Emmanuel Community Farm. Tickets are $25 and attendees should submit their checks made payable to The Garden Club of Dearborn to Laurine Griffin. Once all monies are collected, one check will be made out and sent to the MGC.

Mary then gave an update on the Dearborn Historical Museum. She noted that the Clara Ford lecture was well received. The May 3rd lecture will be on the history of the Detroit Opera House and June’s meeting will be on Thomas Edison. She then shared with the Club the thank you notes received from 3 donations made and read a letter of thanks from Paulette Baumgart for card the Club sent to Otto.

Marietta next reviewed the Slate of Officers for 2023 to 2025 up for approval at June’s meeting. They are:

* Nominating Chair Jo West
* Parliamentarian Mary Bugeia
* President Cynthia Casillas
* Recording Secretary Diane Rebori
* Treasurer Laurine Griffin
* Award Chair Karen Marzonie
* V.P. Programs Carol McGarvey and Sherry Kammer
* V.P. Membership Carol Chrzastek
* V.P. External Affairs Terri Bungee

As the last item of business, the following announcements were made:

* Hosptality sheet was distributed. This was for members to sign up as a host for meetings starting in September 2023 and as host, they would be responsible for providing/donating snacks.
* It was proposed that General meetings for the 2023 to 2024 begin at 11:00 am instead of noon as well as having occasional spring general meetings beginning at 6:00 p.m.
* The Club will hold a garden tour June 10th for members and their guest. At this time, there are 6 homes that will have their gardens open. It was also noted that June 11th will be the designated rain day. Carol will send out a flyer and map of addresses/locations for the tour.
* The new membership book will be distributed at the September or October meeting.
* The Preservation of Dearborn group will be holding a lecture at the McFadden House on June 5th, Monday at 7:00 p.m. of the Kit Homes by Sears. It was also noted that homes on Garrison are being brought up to open commercial property.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Sherry then introduced tonight’s speaker, Lara Edwards from Friends of the Rouge. Ms. Edwards gave background information on the Rouge River Watershed noting that it was over 460 square miles. She gave historical background and reviewed that has been done to date. She stated that the following were currently being done:

1. Restoration
* Planting trees
* Be aware of invasive species
* Picking up trash
* Building rain gardens which was the number one recommendation.
1. Education Project

Since the 90’s they have been providing water science education for 5th to 12th graders. Teachers receive 50 hours of training on the subject.

1. Citizen science monitoring

Monitoring insects, frogs, toads, etc.

1. Building 29 miles of water trails.

Navigable water way with liveries along the way.

Discussion followed and the meeting was extremely well received by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Rebori

Recording Secretary