

Garden Club of Dearborn Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6pm by President Rose Wiggle in the First Presbyterian Church side room. As we weren't in the regular large hall with the Stars & Stripes, the Pledge of Allegiance was said using the flag on the back of Heather Yeaw's sweater.

There were 27 members present (including two new members James Wojtowicz and Joan Martin), 4 guests (including our speaker), and as Rose put it, also "one very cute baby and one well-behaved dog".

Kim Kovacs-Gucwa introduced our speaker, Dr. John Hartig, PhD, a Great Lakes scientist and Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Board member. John presented "River Rouge Revived" – how citizens are bringing the river back to life. Much of the talk was based on his book of the same name and he spoke superbly. Q&A followed the talk plus a short book signing.

Following the talk, Rose introduced our guests: Khadega Mohammed and Sadne Sidi El Mahjoub (Khadega was one of our hosts at the Arab American National Museum rooftop garden tour) with their baby, Amir, Dr. John Hartig, and David Haynes. She then welcomed our two new members, James Wojtowicz and Joan Martin, with bright yellow chrysanthemums.

Mary Bugeia read about sunflowers from the book "100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names" by Diana Wells.

Minutes of the previous meeting of September 8th were approved by Linda Johnson and seconded by Jo West. The minutes were approved.

Laurine Griffin gave the treasurer's report. We currently have \$20,725.13 along with our \$5000 CD and \$7000 in savings. Marlene Wojtowicz motioned to accept the report and Wanda Flaim-Unis seconded. The report was officially accepted.

Carol Chrzastek was absent, no membership report.

We have had trouble reaching Max Ullrich to work on the website and also trouble reaching Eva Gogola.

Mary Bugeia reported brisk upcoming ticket sales; she has already given table assignments to many people. Karen Block sent our flyer to all the clubs in our district and Mary has already heard from two clubs interested in tickets, one of them from St. Clair Shores.

Terri Bungee reported on her efforts to bring schools into the Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl poster contest. She has successfully "enrolled" Lindbergh and Long, and also McCullough-Unis (she went there with Wanda Flaim Unis). She is waiting to hear from Duvall as well as a home school group to whom she sent information. She tried at Whitmore Bowles but had no luck. Wanda suggested trying Haigh.

Terri reported on the Edsel Ford teacher who wants help with a gardening project and who has a long wish list. Among items needed are perennial plants and seeds. Janet Damian will connect with her; Janet relayed the history of Edsel Ford's gardens and courtyard peacocks. Janet has experienced some schools who start gardening projects but don't or cannot provide ongoing maintenance.

Terri told us about eight potential sponsors she has approached for the Holly Berry Brunch. She passed around a list of potential business donors and told everyone (pleaded with everyone) to please try and approach at least one of them. Even one per member is a huge help. If a member frequents a business, they are more likely to donate to our club.

Marlene reported that her table is almost full.

We expect 300 at the Holly Berry Brunch.

Linda announced the District One Fall Meeting coming up on October 15th with eleven of our club members signed up to attend. The meeting will take place in Farmington, the time frame is 9:30am to 2:30pm. The attendee names were read aloud to facilitate car-sharing arrangements.

At our November meeting, we will make wreaths, table top trees, and table decorations for the Festival of Trees as in the past. Linda gave her handout re: making wreaths to Mariya. This will be sent out to all members with these minutes. Linda will bring a lot of bows.

Eleven members of our club submitted forms to the Festival. Some make more than one wreath, some prefer to help, some can make a wreath for their own home. Linda held up one of her wreaths for all to see

There were comments from Mary Ellen Matigian and Paulette Baumgart about the Festival of Trees last year, expressing their discontent with various aspects of what they had seen, how some donations were priced, and more. Rose will collect suggestions and forward them to the organizers.

Hobby Lobby currently has wreaths for 50% off.

Our Buddy's fundraiser is coming up on Thursday, October 23rd. From open to close (11am-9pm), when anyone who mentions being there to support the Garden Club of Dearborn, our club will get 20% of the food sale, both dining in and carry out.

Our next meeting takes place on Monday, November 10 at 11am.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mariya Fogarasi