

August 20, 2021
RGC Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Lancaster Community Library

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Present:

Mary Hutya, President	Susan Edmonds, Hostess Chairman
Debbie Burgess, 1 st Vice President	Deborah Brooks, Membership Chairman
Carol Clark, 2 nd Vice President	Cathie Elliott, Design Chairman
Bonnie Schaschek, Treasurer & Hort Chairman	Helen Johnson, Parliamentarian
Margie Redlin, Corresponding Secretary	Joan Eremenko, Chaplain

Absent:

Mary Ann McKay, Youth Chairman
Ginni Baron, Historian

Mary Hutya began the meeting by reporting on the results of the survey of members.

Membership Survey Results: Ms. Hutya reported a total of 21 completed surveys were received. Within the various categories of membership, 65% of active members, 100% of associate members and 12% of emeritus members completed the survey.

According to the survey results, the number one reason people join RGC is to learn new things and get advice on garden issues. When asked which programs the members would most want to keep if programs had to be cut, members selected the Free Health Clinic Garden, Blue Star Memorial Garden and Youth Programs in that order as those they would most want to keep.

Survey respondents were almost evenly divided when asked if they thought RGC spent too much time on National, State and District Garden Club activities. However, when asked if RGC should be very, somewhat or not involved at all in these activities, 89% of the respondents to this question said RGC should be 'somewhat involved' in these activities.

Members were asked if RGC should cut back on the number of horticulture/design exhibits held during the meeting year or cut them out altogether? 76% of respondents to this question said the number of times exhibits were included at meetings should be reduced. No one voted to entirely eliminate the exhibits. It was noted that almost half of the programs planned for meetings scheduled from September, 2021, through June, 2022, will not include horticulture/design exhibits. These meetings will feature garden tours and other activities that preclude the inclusion of exhibits.

Everyone who replied to the question of whether RGC should have more garden related tours replied, yes, to that question. Survey respondents made some good suggestions for future garden tours.

When asked what changes should be made in the monthly meetings, 61% of respondents said to eliminate lunches. In view of continuing concerns about the Covid virus and the difficulty in getting volunteers to do monthly lunches, the following motion was made.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that neither food, beverages or dessert will be provided at monthly meetings. Exceptions may be made in the event of a special activity.
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Time Change: Since RGC won't be serving lunch, the question was asked if the meetings should start later. A suggestion was made that instead of starting meetings at 12 noon, social time would be from 12:30 – 1:00 pm; and, the meetings will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. There was discussion on the need to be careful if the meeting starts later than in the past because ending later could be a problem. The church has other events that come in behind RGC. It was noted that without the big lunch clean up, RGC should clear out quicker. RGC controls when the meeting ends so will need to be careful to ensure meetings end without encroaching on another event. Ms. Hutya is going to check with the church to let them know what we're thinking.

A question came up as to when exhibits should be delivered and in place since meetings are starting an hour later. Horticulture/Design set up will be scheduled from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. with all exhibits required to be in place and ready for judging at 12:30 p.m.

Changes in Horticulture/Design Exhibit Rules: Bonnie Schascheck, Horticulture Chairman, proposed changes to the exhibit guidelines to simplify schedules. The board members liked the proposed changes noting the changes were in line with suggestions from survey respondents.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that the proposed changes to the Horticulture/Design Exhibit Rules be adopted. Motion passed unanimously.

RGC Website: The Executive Board unanimously agreed that the website password should be changed. It's going on 6 years since the current password was put into use so a change is a good idea. The board also discussed a proposal that the website should be made simpler and get away from posting everything to the website. It was suggested email could be used for document sharing and all communications. The website would become a "landing" page for RGC. It was pointed out that currently there is information on the website such as meeting and board minutes, etc., that is found nowhere else. This makes the website a valuable one-stop

shopping research tool for members. It was decided the password will be updated but no other changes will be made at this time.

Flower Power Program Reinstatement: A suggestion was made that the program operated previously providing flower arrangements in mugs to hospital patients be revived with a change. The difference would be that the arrangements would be provided to Commonwealth Assisted Living. Everyone liked the idea but more information is needed on how the program would operate. Questions like how often the mugs would be provided; whether members would provide flowers from home or would be procured some other way; and, what budget if any is required need to be addressed. Cathie Elliott volunteered to contact the assisted living facility to see if they would be interested in participating in the program. The thinking is if the program goes forward, implementation would be in the 2022-2023 season.

Yearbook: Ms. Clark reminded the members that a substantive redo of the yearbook was performed prior to the pandemic shutting RGC down. There are a few things that need to be updated at this time. Ms. Clark asked the board members to read the yearbook and let her know of any changes or additions that should be made.

Nominating Committee: Ms. Hutya noted that the By-Laws stipulate a Nominating Committee be established during the September meeting. The committee's purpose is to procure candidates to run for the board. In accordance with the By-Laws, Ms. Hutya asked for an Executive Board volunteer to chair the committee. Carol Clark volunteered to chair the committee. Committee members will be solicited during the September meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.