

Lake Ramsey Garden Club meeting September 8, 2014

The Garden Club meeting was held in the home of Ceanne Hirstius. Our president, Kathy Crouchet called the meeting to order, and welcomed newcomer, Kathy Eberhardt, to the group. The officers were introduced as follows: Kathy Crouchet, president; Kathy Hymel, recording secretary; Darlene Parlipiano, corresponding secretary; Jane Griffiths, treasurer; and Nancy Hotard, parliamentarian.

Present were: Kathy Crouchet, Ceanne Hirstius, Nancy Hotard, Ellen Claire Caldwell, Kathy Eberhardt, Kathy Zeringue, Sandy Miller, Janelle Parker, Linda Rowe, Kathy Lyons, Suzy Cochran, Jane Griffiths, Juanita Bild, Darlene Parlipiano, Susie Boutte, Jan Clark, Paulette Hecker, and yours truly, Kathy Hymel.

The treasurer reports a balance of \$481.31 prior to last night's meeting, with a known upcoming commitment to HOA for \$300.00.

The Front Gate Committee report was given by myself, and Sandy Miller. Our committee, which consists of Linda Rowe, Kathy Hymel, Sandy Miller, Paulette Hecker, and Jan Clark, with Pipe Hymel mentioned as Honorary Member for his valued input and attendance at several meetings in reference to the committee, reported a busy summer filled with activity. A "ball type" fountain was presented to the HOA board at their last meeting, and approved for future placement in front of the guard house, between the light poles, already in place. The total cost was approx. \$636.00 and the Garden Club will submit \$300.00 to HOA for this purchase. It is made of concrete and will be finished in a bronze color, that should be beautiful in front of the guard house. I am awaiting receipt of the check from HOA, and the fountain will be ordered as soon as work begins on getting our current light poles operational.

We also presented a "WOW" wall concept to the HOA, for possible placement where our current information board and flag is located. This would include an overflow type fountain in the center, and two equal sides for placement of our

subdivision name, and new information board. We are currently meeting with several landscape firms for ideas and bids. Stay tuned!

Sandy reported another concept for use of our existing wooden Lake Ramsey sign, with our current flag, and the possibility of a LA state flag, and a new Lake Ramsey flag to be placed on a berm inside the existing brick wall, but before the guard house on the right. We will work on possible designs and implementations as time and money allows. Of course, the HOA would be consulted prior to any decisions made on this. We are hoping our pots could also be used in this area.

The Seasonal and Holiday Decorating Committee, consists of Chairperson, Darlene Parlipiano, and members Linda Rowe, Paulette Hecker, Jan Clark, Juanita Bild, Nancy Hotard, and Sandy Miller. Darlene presented possible ideas pending progress on gates and garden completion near and around front gates. We are a work in progress, delayed way too long. Our HOA is diligently working towards completion as soon as possible.

The Event Planning Committee is chaired by Susie Boutte, and consists of members Jan Clark, Camille Steen, Kathy Lyons, and Jane Griffiths. Meetings will be held once a month with field trips to be determined. That committee will be meeting and making plans soon.

The Green Space Committee is chaired by Kathy Zeringue, with members, Sandy Miller, and Kathy Hymel. Kathy Z reports plans to discuss need for swing repair and replacement of rubber mulch with HOA soon. We will choose a date to clean off cement benches by water's edge across from the playground.

The Sunshine Committee is chaired by Suzy Cochran, with members Kathy Lyons, Kathy Crouchet, and Ellen Claire Caldwell. They discussed the need for more welcome baskets, as we have so many new neighbors in our subdivision. They will begin work on those and distribute when available.

The Beautification and Landscape Committee consists of Juanita Bild, Jan Clark, Paulette Hecker, Sandy Miller, and Janelle Parker. This committee keeps our neighborhood festive and seasonal, as year progresses. I'm not sure who the Chairperson is of this group. Plans pending progression of front gate area.

The last, but very important committee is our **Club History Committee** consisting of Ceanne Hirstius and Claire Hayden. They work together to represent us so well through photographs and our club scrap book. They make us look so good!

The last thing on our agenda was our five year goals and objectives. This is a very fluid plan, and can be amended or changed at any time. Ideas include:

1. The small fountain and landscaping in front of the guard house.
2. The “WOW” wall concept
3. The use of our wooden Lake Ramsey sign with old and new flag poles.
4. Design a new Lake Ramsey flag, and meet with Yolanda at Creative Tees for new T shirts.
5. Electrical up lights for oaks behind existing information board.
6. Updates for our existing brick wall at entrance to subdivision. Painting vs sacking was discussed as possibilities.
7. Arbor improvements.
8. Guard House changes with possible shutters or copper awning.
9. US flags for front gate area, and possible residence cooperation for flags on mailboxes for patriotic holidays. Christmas luminaries were discussed.
10. Discussion was for cleaning up of oaks and waterfront behind existing information board. The possible need to remove a tree or two was discussed to improve visibility.

These are in no particular order and are all valid and important concepts to improve our property values, with the greatest emphasis on our lake.

The next meeting will be held on Oct 6th at Jan Clark’s home at 6:30pm, with the following month’s meeting on November 3rd, at the home of Sandy Miller. Christmas party date and place pending.

Meeting was adjourned and refreshments served.