

The March meeting was held in the lovely home of Susie Cochran. It began with a wonderful presentation on rain gardens, with a primary focus on water and water quality which impacts our environment. It was facilitated with a very informative slide presentation, and two excellent speakers. Thanks to Susie Boutte for providing us with this information. Handouts were given on suggested native plants and places where these plants may be found.

After a brief intermission for indulging in Susie's wonderful desserts, the meeting was called to order by Kathy Crouchet. Darlene gave us an updated reminder on our goals from the beginning of the year, and we discussed successes and failures. It has been a challenging year due to the still unfinished front gate landscaping and irrigation system. Many of our plans have been on hold until this major project is completed.

It was recommended and adopted that our meetings will change from the first Monday of the month, to the second Monday of the month, effective next September.

The decision regarding prospective areas to be gardened by the club has been tabled until front gate landscaping is completed by David Guidry.

It was recommended and approved that future officer positions be changed from a mandatory two years, to one year with an option to continue for the second year. All were in favor of this motion.

Nancy Arnold again brought up her desire to improve the hot springs area. This land and equipment belongs to David Guidry, and it was decided that she could present this concept to the HOA at a monthly meeting for them to discuss with David. We do not want to take this on as a club project, but may be willing to help, individually, if and when needed. Susie Boutte stated that she was not in favor of benches added to that spot, as teenagers linger here too long already.

Sandy Miller did a presentation on the Lake Ramsey flag design competition. Rules are as follows:

1. The flag design competition is open to anyone who wants to enter.
2. Submissions must be at least 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches.
3. Design should reflect/represent our Lake Ramsey community and can incorporate the original logo into the design but it is not required.
4. Submissions must be given to Sandy Miller, 13429 Riverlake Dr, by May 1, 2015.
5. Designs will be judged by the Flag Design Committee which consists of: Kathy Crouchet, Paulette Hecker, and Ceanne Hirstius representing the Garden Club. Joan Bayard, Geary Hirstius, and Don Hotard will represent the Civic Association. Sandy Miller will be chairing the joint committee and will vote only in the case of a tie.
6. Winner's award to be determined.

Kathy Hymel gave an update on the small fountain. The slab will be poured as soon as weather permits, and the fountain for the median in front of the guard house should be in place within the next two weeks. Progress!

The "Wow Wall" is on hold until the front landscaping is complete, and is pending upon David Guidry's written permission to proceed, and the HOA board approval. Time will tell.

The new 2015 officers were appointed informally at this meeting as follows:

President: Kathy Hymel

Recording and Corresponding Secretary: Darlene Parlipiano

Treasurer: Jane Griffiths

Parliamentarian: Kathy Lyons

Committee Chairpersons:

Front Gate: Kathy Hymel

Seasonal and Holiday Decorating: Juanita

Event Planning: Susie Boutte and Kathy Zeringue

Green Space: Nancy Arnold

Sunshine Committee: Susie Cochran and Kathy Eberhardt

Landscape Committee: Sandy Miller and Paulette Hecker

Scrapbook: Ceanne Hirstius and Claire Hayden

Everyone must be prepared to sign up for committees at next month's meeting. If you are unable to attend, please notify either Kathy Crouchet or myself, prior to the April meeting.

The next field trip will be Friday, March 20th to New Orleans for Art in Bloom. Time to meet will be announced soon.

Next meeting will be April 6th at the home of Kathy Zeringue, 13157 Riverlake Dr. Speaker will present information on our club flower, irises. Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Hymel
Recording Secretary