

WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, June 25, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Milne Public Library back meeting room

- A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Maria called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
- B. CONFIRM QUORUM: A quorum was present. Attending were Maria Siskind, Elaine Neely, Betty Iannitelli, Denny Meneghelli, Diane Van Kempen, Susan Montiel, Joan Wright, Karen Parker and Kathy McKnight. Past President Karen Pellegrini attended. Marilyn Faulkner was excused
- C. APPROVE MINUTES
- 1.) A MOTION was made to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2023 Board meeting, carried by a vote of 8-0.
- D. REPORTS:
- 1.) President's Report (Maria Siskind):
- a. The purpose of this meeting was to establish the WGC budget for the coming fiscal year and to set a date for our next Board meeting.
 - b. Our current Vice President has resigned from her position effective immediately.
 - c. Discussion of July 4th Parade: Licia Conforti is heading it up. Diane will oversee any expenditures as chair of Programs.
- 2.) Finance Committee Report (Susan Montiel):
- a. Quicken provides useful actual amounts in all account lines and records of all transactions on a cash basis.
 - b. WGC has kept excellent records since 2016.
 - c. The Finance Committee (Susan, Marilyn, Maria and Karen Pellegrini) has devoted significant time to the preparation of the proposed FY2024 budget which has been distributed to the board. Lengthy review of the proposed budget was held with questions and answers, including comparisons to prior years' income and expense items. Also shared with the board was the WGC Expense Categories and Descriptions document which provides for consistency in categorization from year to year. New this year: articulated budget lines have been added within some budget categories to include budget sub-sets.
 - d. The budget is in good shape for FY 2024 (despite anticipated lower Fall Plant Sale income).
 - e. Brief discussion of 2024 Holiday Luncheon. Higher cost of plating vs. buffet, seeking a venue with lower service expenses and what constitutes an appropriate ratio of Club-borne expense vs. member-borne expense. The

Commented [SM1]: There was discussion about whether to leave the slot open for now or if Maria should fill the vacancy until the election. I believe Maria is thinking about this.

Commented [SM2]: Marilyn definitely did not resign. She said she won't run again in October.

Programs committee will consider all options and will be responsible for the arrangements.

f. Following the discussion, changes were made to the proposed budget and a MOTION was made and seconded to approve the Revised Proposed Budget for FY2024. Motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Discussion held regarding the fall plant sale. It will be led by the Horticulture committee. Recommendation made that it include a bake sale to give non-houseplant gardener members a way to contribute and generate additional income. Maria will seek permission from the Library and the committee will finalize the date and location.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1.) The Williamstown Chamber of Commerce gift:

a. WCC received a civic beautification grant and is gifting the WGC their remaining grant monies (\$5,000) to support WGC civic beautification activities throughout Williamstown. WCC has asked for WGC's receipts from beautification purchases from 2023, 2022 and 2021 as proof of expenditures to support the whole their original grant's purpose.

b. Treasurer (Marilyn) has requested we vote to accept this gift.

c. A MOTION was made and seconded to accept this gift from the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce. Carried by unanimous vote 8-0.

2.) Milne Public Library Opportunity

a. Milne Public Library Trustees and Director have given the WGC the opportunity to design and care for the Library gardens at the entrance and under the new Library sign.

b. The Board discussed at length this request. A May 1 letter from Library Trustee Bridget Spann to WGC was shared with the board.

c. The key conclusion of the board is that the Club does not have the human capital to undertake additional ongoing garden maintenance. We currently spend more than 12 hours per week during the growing season at the library's Sally Tenney Osborne Garden, in addition to labor-intensive work at the Post Office, Field Park, Town Hall, Hopper Road Bridge and a great many containers situated throughout Town. We would be pleased to review and advise on proposed plans.

d. A MOTION was made and seconded to not accept the Library's opportunity, carried unanimously 7-0 (one board member had left).

e. The president will email Library Trustee Bridget Spann to inform her of our decision.

3.) Preparing for the Annual Meeting in October – a reminder that the Nominating Committee must have two members who do not serve on the Board. Maria expects to name the Nominating committee chair soon. |

G: NEXT BOARD MEETING: Monday, August 14 at 2:00 p.m. Location TBD.

H: ADJOURNMENT: 3:45 p.m.

Submitted by,
Karen Parker, Recording Secretary

Approved August 14, 2023

Commented [SM3]: I think the polling of current board members and the question of what positions are open is best addressed by Nominating and should not be in Board minutes.