

BRGC July 24, 2024 Zoom Board Meeting

Members Present: Mary Babbitt, Marie Caracuzzo, Martha Anne Gilliam, Malia Shorts, Mona Johnson, Lynda Steele, Mary Horsman, Marilyn Green, Evenlight Eagles, Elmyra Morris, Joyce Zellner, Susan Sweet

Secretary's Report: Martha Anne Gilliam asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the June 26th board meeting. Mary Babbitt made a motion to accept the minutes as broadcast. Marilyn Green seconded, and the board members voted to accept them.

Treasurer's Report: Malia Shorts said that we collected \$595 in dues at the last meeting, \$89 from the raffle, and \$65 from our logo items, for a total of \$749 in revenue. Expenses were \$17.09 for bingo and \$100 as a donation to Arborcrest after the field trip/tour. We have a balance in our checkbook of \$15,148.10.

President's Report: New Business - Joyce, Marie, and Mary B. came up with an idea to have a new member's tea party. Joyce Zellner offered her barn as the venue. The board members would host the tea and bring food for the event. The time proposed is Monday, August 26th at 12 noon. Board members are asked to arrive at 11 a.m..

Old Business - We are having a get-together Sunday, July 28th at 5 p.m. at the Zellner's barn. Bring your own dish to share and an alcoholic beverage if you want it.

Our next general meeting is August 7th at 11:30. Danielle Stewart from Mustard Seed will be our speaker and she will talk about making centerpieces.

Joyce Zellner is heading up the nominating committee for next year and Marie will co-chair. If you want to remain in your current role, please let Joyce or Marie know that you can serve again next year. Marie mentioned that we might have co-chairs in certain positions, such as hospitality. Evenlight commented that sometimes, things could get "watered down" if

two are in one position. Marie said that one person would be the main contact if we go this route.

October 2nd is our final general meeting and will be a covered dish get-together. We will possibly have members responsible for setting nice tables as was done last year. Mary B. will write a note for Martha Anne to send out to the general members to vote on whether or not we want to do this again.

Vice President's Report: Marie Caracuzzo said that she had applied for a Publix grant for food at our bingo night. The next bingo meeting will be August 2nd at Camp Roasters in Blowing Rock. Additionally, three stores agreed to have tickets on sale, My Mountain Home, Birds Galore, and the Village Thrift store. Linda Lassiter put a notice about bingo night in the Blowing Rock Women's Club newsletter. Marie needs more people to solicit donations. She mentioned that The Bee and the Boxwood will donate. Mary B. is making fliers about our bingo night to put in businesses.

Kitty at J. McLaughlin is having a "sip and shop" Sept. 6th at the store to benefit and promote this year's bingo night. 15% of the proceeds will go to our club.

Marie asked that members let her know if they want her to order t-shirts.

Membership: Kathy Medosch sent a report via email. She emailed 26 members who had not paid their dues. Six responded that they would not be joining this year, and five said they would mail a check. We currently have 75 paid members.

Horticulture: Evenlight Eagles said that she has recently put more annuals in. Elmyra noted that there is a QR code beside our statue which links to information on the local sculptor Alex Hallmark. He who was commissioned by the Blowing Rock Garden Club for our statue "The Gardener." BRAHM is featuring an exhibit in recognition of Hallmark. Evenlight said that she has put a link on our website which will show every flower in our garden.

Hospitality Report: Mary Horsman said that Shelley Pendleton, Marie Caracuzzo, and Ann Reynolds are bringing food for our August meeting and Darlene Kronemann is bringing a raffle prize. For the September meeting at BRAHM, there was discussion regarding how to handle food and drink. Mary H. said that she could provide sweets and the decision was made to have bottled water. We were asked not to bring anything that might stain their carpet. Susan Sweet and Marie Caracuzzo volunteered to bring food, also. Mary said she would have paper products. We are asked to come no later than 10:30 to help with set-up. We will not have a raffle. After the program by Ron Cutlip at BRAHM, Alice Roess has offered to have the garden club and any other community members over to see her garden. Ineke may allow visitors to her garden, depending on her recovery from a knee replacement. Greeters from the club will stand at the entryway to direct people coming to the program. Elmyra said we all must register with the museum to go to the September meeting there. The event is already on their website.

Field Trips Report: Mona Johnson said there was a good turnout for the lavender farm and for the Arborcrest gardens. There is no field trip in August, but she hopes to arrange a farm visit with the Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture who spoke at the July meeting. Lynda Steele spoke about the apple orchard field trip at her home. It was decided that Sunday, October 6th would work best. Marie Caracuzzo said her neighbor plays guitar and sings and would be happy to perform, gratis.

Newsletter: Lynda Steele asked that we let her know of events and to send pictures. She thanked Evenlight for the website information and also for giving her a link to the new member's email list. Evenlight asked that, as much as possible, we should get planned activities lined up at the beginning of our season so that she can get it on the website. There are currently some field trip dates that did not make it onto the site, and there is possibly a double page with trips listed from last year.

Facebook: Marilyn Green asked Susan Sweet if Amanda Lugenbell had sent any information about Mile of Flowers. She had not, but Susan Sweet

said that there is a Mile of Flowers committee meeting on Thursday, July 25th at her home. It was suggested that we get a webpage set up for Mile of Flowers.

Past President's Thoughts: Joyce Zellner spoke about the two upcoming events at her barn, the social Sunday, July 28th at 5 p.m. and the tea August 26th at 12 noon. Mary B. thanked her for offering her barn for both events and for heading up the nominating committee for next year.

Mile of Flowers: Susan reiterated that her planning committee would meet Thursday, July 25th, at 2 o'clock in her home. She had already sent an email to those on her list.

Elmyra - Special Programs: Elmyra said that she and Mary would tie up any loose ends with Willard Watson, the program director at BRAHM for the September special meeting at BRAHM. She said that the BRAHM director formerly worked for Reynolda Gardens. She knew that Reynolda was undergoing a big renovation this year, and said that next year, she has already begun thinking about having the director speak about Reynolda for our 2025 BRAHM program. This could work well in conjunction with a field trip to Winston to those gardens next year. Mary B. said that she was told that August is the best month to visit there.

Mary Babbitt thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.