

BRGC August 21, 2024 Zoom Board Meeting

Members Present: Mary Babbitt, Marie Caracuzzo, Malia Shorts, Martha Anne Gilliam, Mary Horsman, Kathy Medosch, Elmyra Morris, Lynda Steele, Evenlight Eagles, Evenlight Eagles, Joyce Zellner

Mary Babbitt called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m..

Secretary's Report: Martha Gilliam asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes from the July 24th board meeting. There were none and Mary B. asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Mary Horsman made the motion and Elmyra Morris seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Malia Shorts said that \$175.00 were collected in dues, \$117.00 from the raffle, and \$100.50 in donations. \$80.00 was collected from logo items and sales brought \$40. The total was \$512.50. Our only expense this month was \$84.00 for the post office box rental. Our balance is \$15,577.23. Mary B. said that she had sent the \$208.69 invoice from the accountant for filing our first postcard tax form (2023) since we have become a 501-C3. As long as our income is under \$50,000, we are allowed to file the simple postcard return.

President's Report: Mary B. commented on what a great speaker Danielle Stewart was at our last general meeting. She mentioned the new members' tea to be held in Joyce Zellner's barn on Monday, August 26th and asked if all members of the board and the committee chairs would be able to attend. There was some discussion of the food the board would be bringing. Martha agreed to send the invitation again, including members who joined in 2023. Mary said that we should talk about our duties and our committees. Board members were asked to arrive at 11:15-11:30 to set up for the party.

Mary next mentioned the progress of the nominating committee and those who had agreed to stay in their offices for the next year. New member Lise Jenkins has agreed to take care of our webpage. Several vacancies/opportunities were mentioned, such as a community outreach chair and a

historian which we have not had in a number of years. There is a need for a program chair which was said to be a good entry level position for a new member. Elmyra has agreed to help, but not chair. We also need a vice president. There was discussion over the duties of a V.P. and caution that we don't want to add too many chair positions as a small organization. As far as community outreach, Joyce mentioned that the facebook page, our newsletter, and our webpage are each somewhat a means of outreach. Next on the agenda was our October meeting and whether or not we wanted to ask members to decorate the tables once again. Martha Anne agreed to send out an email to the general membership. Those wanting to take a table will reach out to Mary Horsman, our hospitality chair.

Vice President's Report: Marie reported that she is on the Mile of Flowers (MOF) committee with Susan Sweet chairing. Additionally, there are four or five members soliciting donations for Wildflower Bingo. Marie asked if we could support doing both MOF and Wildflower Bingo next year. She said the work has not been too hard for the bingo committee. There was some discussion of that. There was caution from Elmyra who has been through the major tasks involved in carrying out MOF in the past. After some discussion, Mary B. said that we should table this idea for now.

Membership: Kathy Medosch said that there are 80 paid members and 11 unpaid members from last year. Kathy will email and call those 11 people to see if they would like to remain members.

Horticulture: Evenlight said that she has spent \$850 of her annual budget to date and there is \$150 left to spend. Part of the bingo funds have been spent. She says that September will be a big month for planting. Susan Wright from Shady Grove gave the club some dahlias. The Master Gardeners of Durham gave us \$100. Evenlight asked if there is someone who is assigned to write thank-you notes. It was determined that thank-you note writing is not a position, nor is it in any current board member's job description. In the past, people have volunteered or the chair receiving the benefit has written the notes. Mary B. agreed to write this thank-you.

Website: Lise Jenkins has agreed to move (over time) into managing our website, especially tailoring our internal processes. She created a draft version of the site <https://blowingrockgardenclub.org>. Our current site is a .com site. After the .org site is finished and approved, the old site will point viewers to the new site. Currently, the password for the new site is *GardenFun* if the board would like to look over the “members only” section. She suggests this section be password protected for paid members of the club to enjoy. The new site will include all of the information we have had in the past, but Lise explained how we could build more functionality into the website. Lise has the framework in place for sections such as *Featured Event*, *Learn with Us*, *Coming Events*, and *Blowing Rock Garden*. She has also created an “about” section. She welcomes feedback and advice on what we want to see on the website. Lise is willing to train committee or project leads on how to edit their own pages if we want this. She has many ideas on how to expand the functionality of the page. For example, non-members could find the application to join BRGC on-line, QR codes could be added, and tickets could even be sold via the webpage, but these additions need to be thought through for what we want and how we want it to work. Lise has also added a link to the Facebook page and a link to the Blowing Rock instagram account. In the future, we might even scan information from our archives to the members only section. Evenlight asked if we needed to vote on our website change to the .org which is \$40.00 per year. Evenlight made a motion to vote. Kathy Medosch seconded and the new site was approved.

Hospitality: Mary Horsman said that Willard Watson at BRAHM expects about 60 people to attend BRAHM to hear our featured speaker for September, Ron Cutlip. She has seven members bringing snacks. We were asked not to bring anything that might stain the carpet, so we will have bottled water. Willard also has tables and tablecloths we can use. We will have a short meeting following the talk. Kathy will be bringing our nametags. Joyce reminded us that the club will need to vote at this meeting for officers for the upcoming year.

Field Trips: Mona was unable to attend.

Newsletter: Lynda Steele thanked Lise Jenkins and pointed out that there is also the potential to put the newsletter on the website as a PDF, rather than using Mail Chimp to broadcast the news.

Facebook: Marilyn Green mentioned that it would be a good thing to have the member's only page on our website, then maybe she could get rid of the group page on Facebook. People outside of our club have, in the past, gotten on the members only Facebook page which puts Marilyn in a position of policing the site.

Past President's Thoughts: Joyce Zellner said she had approached several of the new members to see if they might be interested in taking on a board or committee chair position in 2025.

Mile of Flowers Update: Susan Sweet was unable to use the zoom link to join the meeting, but the next MOF meeting is Sept. 19th at 2 o'clock.

Special Program Update: Elmyra said that Alice Roess asked if she should have drinks for us when we tour her garden. Mary B volunteered to have bottles of water at the gardens. Alice has gotten permission for us to park on the roadway on Wonderland Trail. We will need 4 or 5 people to volunteer their cars for shuttling members from BRAHM to the gardens and back again.

Closing Remarks: For the October meeting, there will be no program. Elmyra would like to promote a book written by Palmer McIntyre of the Piedmont Land Conservancy and Hollis Oberlies, a graphic designer and runner. The book is *Trails and Treats*. It is a hiker and runners guide to great trails and good food in North Carolina. Elmyra will invite Palmer to come with her book to our October meeting.

Mary B. asked us to come to the September meeting at BRAHM no later than 10:30 as the program will begin at 11 o'clock. She adjourned the meeting at 11:23.