

Blowing Rock Garden Club Board Meeting May 20,2026

Meeting Summary

The board meeting focused on administrative updates and budget approvals, with Marie leading the discussion about scheduling issues and technical difficulties with Zoom links. The board approved an updated budget with corrections including increased apparel costs to \$800, moved Arbor Crest to field trips at a later time, and removed the Banner Elk donation. A significant discussion centered on purchasing AV equipment, specifically a projector and microphone system, with the board approving a \$400 budget allocation for audio-visual equipment refresh. The garden club's sculpture project was extensively discussed with Marie reporting on conversations with Deb Boyd about the town's new sculptures and potential alternative options like art installations or memorial plaques on existing town sculptures. The board also approved upcoming events including a social on June 7th at 5PM at Joyce's barn and a Flamingo meeting rescheduled to June 12th at 10:30 at Camp Coffee. Field trip updates were provided by Melaine including a recent visit to Reynaldo Gardens in Winston-Salem and an upcoming trip to Blake Farms Nursery on June 10th.

Next Steps

Barbara

Send out corrected minutes from the last board meeting to board members. Lise will post the corrected copy to the website.

Include upcoming board meeting dates in the minutes. They are June 24th, July 22nd, August 19th and September 23rd.

Lise

Set up Sign Up for the June 7th social event and provide the link on the website and via email to members.

Put the social event sign-up on the website as soon as possible.

Lynda

Work on the newsletter and send it out before the next meeting; request additional photos if needed.

Marie

Reach out to Kat Perry and Deb Boyd (and possibly Susie Taylor and Linda Beverly) regarding the town's sculpture donation / plaque opportunity and report back to the committee/board.

Contact Andrea Connell Keys (local artist) to discuss possible art installation ideas and report back to the committee/board.

Get with the committee this month to discuss alternative art installation ideas for the garden and present options to the board and general club.

Send out future board meeting dates to the club (or ensure Barbara includes them in minutes/ emails).

Touch base with Joyce about planning a new member gathering earlier in the year.

Ask Joyce (and Amanda) to coordinate a date for float decorating for the 4th of July and seek donation of balers of hay for the float.

Get with the committee to consider surveying the general club about preferences for garden art/ sculpture vs. alternative installations.

Investigate options for less expensive copying (e.g., the public library) for future meeting materials.

Melaine

Organize the June 10th field trip to Blake Farms Nursery in North Wilkesboro and communicate details to members

Patricia (Tricia)

Update and resend the revised budget to all board members for approval at the next meeting.

Summary

Logistics Planning

Marie and Barbara discussed logistics for an upcoming board meeting including the need for a quorum to vote on budget items like a projector. Lise suggested attaching the Zoom link directly to the meeting agenda to simplify communications. The group also discussed alternatives to a sculpture project with Marie proposing an art installation or nature themed addition to the garden and they explored the possibility of donating to existing town sculptures with memorial plaques instead. The meeting included confirmation that board members alone, not including chairpeople, are needed to reach quorum for budget votes.

Board Budget Approval Meeting

The board meeting focused on correcting and approving the previous meeting minutes where Barbara identified an error in the definition of BROCC to BRAAC which means Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Committee. The updated budget was discussed with Tricia explaining the changes including increased apparel limits to \$800, moving Arbor Crest to field trips, removing Banner Elk donation and adding Sip and Shop. The board voted to approve the amended budget and Marie concluded by requesting the board consider investing in a projector for future meetings, noting that the previous one was damaged during Helene flooding.

AV Equipment Budget Allocation

The group discussed purchasing a projector for presentations with costs from \$70 to \$550 and additional cord expenses of about \$40 each. They agreed to allocate \$300 for a projector and

related equipment with Lise suggesting a \$400 placeholder for an AV refresh including microphone and projector equipment. Marilyn Green made the motion to add the AV equipment budget and Melaine Campbell seconded. Tricia agreed to update and distribute the new budget for approval at the next meeting..

Meeting Efficiency and Planning Updates

The group discussed reducing paper copies for meetings and explored using a projector to display agendas in the future. Marie announced the next social event would be on June 7th at 5:00 PM with Lise offering to set up a Sign Up Genius system for food sign-ups. The team also discussed planning for Wildflower Bingo, deciding to move the date back a week to accommodate everyone's schedules with Marilyn confirming 12 weeks would be sufficient for planning.

July 4th Planning Meeting

Marie confirmed that the next meeting will be held on June 12th at 10:30 at Camp Coffee with 9 people currently signed up. The group discussed 4th of July preparations noting that Mona ordered flowers and they need to decorate the float with plans to meet at Joyce's barn for this purpose.

Park Sculpture Installation Planning

Marie discussed plans for a sculpture or art installation in the park, noting that the town is seeking donors to offset costs and would be willing to place plaques acknowledging donors. Marie also mentioned a conversation with Deb Boyd about town purchased bronze sculptures that could potentially serve as an alternative to the garden sculpture project. Marilyn suggested using the \$10,000 donation from Ed Rooley for a town-owned sculpture with a plaque, which Marie agreed to explore as an alternative to purchasing a large sculpture for the garden. Marie mentioned consulting with her committee and considering a survey to gauge community preferences while also exploring options with local artists like Andrea Connell Keys for potential art installations.

Garden Club Updates and Initiative

Marie led the meeting discussing various updates and initiatives for the Garden Club. Mona suggested incorporating photo opportunities to promote the city and club, while Marie shared Andra's idea to incorporate local flora and fauna, possibly including a seek and find activity for children. Melanie reported on recent and upcoming field trips, including a visit to Reynaldo Gardens and an upcoming trip to Blake Farms Nursery on June 10th. Lise provided an update on the website. She mentioned she was working on adding sign ups for the upcoming social event in June and Marilyn reported slow but steady growth in the number of followers on the public Facebook page.

Newsletter and Board Planning Discussion

Marie and Lynda discussed the upcoming newsletter with Lynda planning to work on it next week after arriving on Friday afternoon. The group briefly mentioned new members Greg and Sarah Needham who attended our recent social event at Joyces. Marie agreed to discuss with Joyce about potentially hosting a new member gathering earlier in the year. Marie provided upcoming board meeting dates for the year: June 24th, July 22nd, August 19th, September 23rd. She noted that Susan Sweet might have ideas for replacing the Mile of Flowers event next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Law, Secretary