

BRGC Board Meeting July 1, 2026

Marie called the meeting to order at 9:30. Today's meeting focused on planning for the July 4th parade event and general updates. Marie and Joyce discussed moving a trailer inside and decorating for the parade, with plans to invite family members to participate. Barbara agreed to send out invitations and noted she would follow up each club meeting minutes with the current roster. Mona inquired about obtaining last year's flyer design to streamline this year's process. Lise confirmed the website contained similar information. The group discussed upcoming events at the Zellner's barn meeting next week.

Minutes and Financial Updates

Barbara confirmed a minor time correction had been made in the minutes. The group approved the secretary's report after this statement. Tricia provided the treasurer's report noting a question about recent membership payments that she agreed to follow up on via text. Marie suggested printing bingo materials at home to reduce copying costs at Staples which the group agreed was too expensive at 50 cents per sheet.

Budget and Parade Planning Meeting

The meeting focused on budget approval and parade planning. Tricia asked about what to show at the general meeting and Marie confirmed she should present the full materials including the budget roster and agendas. The group discussed parade preparations with Joyce and Marie coordinating the float setup on Friday at 1:00 and parade participation on Saturday as early as 9:30. The next club meeting was scheduled for the following Wednesday at the Zellner Barn from 11:30 to 2:30 pm with early set up help requested around 10:30.

Sculpture Committee and Merchandise Updates

Marie announced the formation of a sculpture committee with herself, Susie Taylor, Pat Wheeler and Linda Beverly who will meet with an artist at the end of the month. Crystal reported on merchandise, explaining that new samples would be shipped from Tennessee through her niece at an amount of approximately \$250 with approved profit margins due to a \$2.50 printing fee structure. Crystal also mentioned ordering small t-shirts and hoodies for Joyce and working on stickers through her sister-in-law's company.

Wildflower Bingo Event Planning

Crystal raised questions about the Wildflower Bingo Event, including ticket pricing and current verbiage which Marie agreed to discuss with her separately. Tricia clarified the

budget situation regarding merchandise confirming that while \$800 was allocated on the revenue side, only \$490 had been made and Marie explained that past expenses for merchandise were typically around \$500-600. The group discussed membership numbers with Barbara indicating they were in the 90's though she needed to confirm the exact count.

Dues payment and Event Planning

The group discussed payment of dues with Joyce noting they should not be counted until paid despite the May deadline though Marie noted they had changed this policy. The team addressed technical issues with Evenlight being muted and decided Tricia would text her directly. Joyce reported that hospitality plans were set with red, white and blue decorations for the next meeting and she agreed to send written directions for the event location to accommodate 40-45 expected attendees including Crystal's two guests from Florida.

Presentation Logistics and Field Trip

The team discussed logistics for the upcoming presentation with Joyce confirming her address and agreeing to use either a television or a white sheet hung on the garage door for the presentation display. Marita will check with the speaker about using the television first and Marie will bring a projector. The group also discussed upcoming speakers including Leigh Henson who specializes in moss and Annika Davidson who directs a greenhouse at Appalachian State University. Melaine announced a field trip for July 15th to Old Orchard Creek farms in Lansing for blueberry picking with 12 people signed up.

Website and Fundraising Updates

Lise reported updates on the website including plans to add Eventbrite for ticket sales and potentially membership dues payment and mentioned the possibility of listing sponsors with links to their sites. She also announced two upcoming fundraising flower arrangement classes at BRAHM August 7th and September 11th which will generate revenue for the Garden Club. When asked about parade materials, Lise confirmed that flyers had been distributed through town water bills, HOA meetings, but noted that creating additional promotional materials like bookmarks, etc, were not within her skills and would require someone with those design abilities to produce them by Saturday.

Newsletter Performance and Bingo Planning

The board discussed the newsletter's open rate performance with Lynda reporting a current rate of 39% and noting a decline from previous years potentially due to members accessing content directly through the website. Marie announced plans to roll out Wildflower Bingo next Wednesday during the meeting, including distribution of donation letters and tickets with the goal of starting recruitment and donations after the meeting. The group discussed ordering approximately 20 aprons for volunteers with suggestions to use generic floral designs rather than branded logos to make them more marketable for future sales.

Horticulture Season Preparations Update

Evenlight reported that horticulture preparations for the season are nearly complete with plans to add more dahlias and annuals around the 1888 area once temperatures drop next week. She also mentioned ordering irises and sedums for fall installation to help stabilize the bank area. The group discussed a potential stove donation for the American Legion, but Joyce Zellner suggested consulting with the Parks and Recreation and the town first as they would need to handle maintenance responsibilities.

With this the meeting was adjourned by Marie and we all wished each other a Happy 250th Fourth of July!!

Respectfully submitted, Barbara F Law, Secretary