September 23, 2018

General Meeting Minutes

The September meeting of the Homer Garden Club was held at the beginning of the annual Harvest Dinner, which was well-attended. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 P.M. by President Francie Roberts.

Treasurer, Peggy Pittman, reported that there is currently $17,418.73 in the treasury.

Brenda Adams, on behalf of the Gardeners’ Weekend committee, gave a report on progress toward the 2019 event. The primary focus was on gardens to be included in the tours and the under-attended winery event.

Regarding the winery, it was pointed out that there were only 148 in attendance this year and that included all of the garden club volunteers working in the kitchen and handling the security and ID checks at the gates. The committee is considering eliminating that part of the weekend due in part to the low turnout, the cost, lack of a volunteer to head up the event and the need to use 16 volunteers in this capacity, while finding people to serve as garden hostesses is difficult. It is thought, however, that our giving up that weekend could preclude us from obtaining it again in the future if we chose to do so. Various comments came from members:

Elaine Grabowski felt that the kind of tickets that were being sold might have been part of the problem.

Cathy Ulmer suggested that instead of including the winery, we might give consideration to holding the after-event get-together at various restaurants. That way the money allocated for this part of the weekend could go to the chosen restaurant; they would prepare the food and there would be a no host bar available to those wanting a glass of wine. Brenda felt that would be worth considering and the committee will look into that option. The initial savings would come from not having to buy the alcohol permit, not having to purchase event insurance, and not hiring musicians nor the shuttle. It would also allow the committee to staff the tour gardens with hostesses serving just two hours and having more time to get out into the gardens themselves.

The Gardeners’ Weekend committee only has two gardens at this point, while they usually have all 5 chosen by this time of year. Garden nomination forms were placed on the dinner tables in the hope that some suggestions of new gardens would be forthcoming.

The next order of business was election of officers. Cathy Ulmer has served as the one-woman nominating committee but says she would like help in the future. Brenda and Julie said that they would help with this task. Kathy Dube’ was elected President and Jan Peyton and Renee Patten will work together as Co-Vice Presidents, tasked with finding speakers for the club’s general meetings. Louise Ashmun was elected treasurer and Roni Overway will continue as secretary. She has found 4 volunteers to take minutes at the 4 meetings she will miss this winter. We are still in need of a Social Secretary. Other officers will continue in their positions: Barbara Kennedy- Data Base, Julie Parizek- Public Relations, Paula Riley- Newsletter, Sharon Froeschle -Historian and Francie Roberts- Past President.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roni Overway

Recording Secretary