**Homer Garden Club Minutes – February 16th, 2020**

Kathy welcomed attendees with praise of Seed Catalogs arriving in the mail and the promise of Spring coming!

**Announcements**

Brenda Adams notified us that the Anchorage Botanical Garden group will be holding a one day program next week. All welcome to attend. Brenda will be presenting the talk we have the privilege of hearing today

**REPORTS**

**Secretary:** Ruth is slowly learning the system and apologized for recent absences. The minutes from previous meeting available on the website thanks to Barb Kennedy.

**Treasurer:** Louise reported $20,800 in accounts. She emphasized the Garden Club goal of using funds to promote Gardening Education and related that $1200 is going to support the Chef at the Farmers Market.

Ideas from members included supporting the Paul Banks Greenhouse and a Learning Garden at the SPARC. The Board will discuss/investigate these ideas.

**Gardeners Weekend:** Francie reported that four gardeners are committed for 2002 and a good fifth one is being negotiated. The tour will be on July 19th and include a Walking the Town Trails option, connecting some of the gardens. The committee is ‘cooking up’ a special program for the Saturday evening.

**Speakers:** Sally informed us of the following upcoming programs

March: Dorian Perez of NRCS speaking on Healthy Soils, Amendments, Drainage etc

April: Neil Waggoner. The care and maintenance of Fruit Trees

May: Yarrow. Growing and Using Herbs and Medicinal Plants

**Social Coordinator:** Michael produced his sign-up sheet that was handed around and he later happily reported that all the spots were filled for March through May. Thankyou Ladies and Gentlemen

**Data Base:** The word was ‘Everything is just fine’. Yeah!

**Plant Sale:** Slotted this year for May 30th after Memorial weekend. Please remember the plant sale when dividing up your plants as this is a major fundraiser for the club. Barbara hopes to have soil available for this purpose and Brenda offered to share lots of various sized pots. **PLEASE** identify your contributions in some way.

**Baycrest Gardens:** Plan to come join the fun party cleaning up the garden in early May. Often 25-30 people along. No experience necessary. Come learn from the pro’s. A calendar to sign up for weekly maintenance will be circulated later.

**Newsletter:** Thanks from Paula to Julie for filling in during vacation time. AND thanks to Jessica for continuing to write such great articles. Contributions to the newsletter always welcome.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Garden Club books available for sale on the back table

Oceanside chickens are laying – a few dozen organic eggs available. Very popular, beware of the stampede! Don also proffered some grape cuttings.

**SPEAKER**

Today’s speaker was Brenda Adams – Master Gardener, Author of 2 popular gardening books, teacher of Horticulture at University of Anchorage, Garden Designer and well of wisdom on local gardening.

Notes from her talk, that was accompanied by a plethora of beautiful slides were provided.

One fascinating gem she passed on. Flowers have a negative charge and Bumble Bees carry a positive charge. This creates a special attraction between them that also aids the attachment of pollen to the bees furry legs. Once the bee has visited the flower, the charge emitted is reduced, so that the next bee to come by moves to a different flower.

Important Point – Never use pesticides – even organic one. They kill the beneficial insects along with the pests. ‘***Kill the good bugs and you will inherit the job’***