

## 4-21-24 Homer Garden Club Meeting – Minutes

President Kathy Dube brought the meeting to order at 2:06 and commented on the full house of attendees!

1. Additions to Agenda – *there were no additions to the agenda*
2. Secretary's Report – *Tina reported that minutes from the March meeting could be found in the email Newsletter sent to all members or on the website.*
3. Treasurer's Report – *Kendall reported that we have a total balance of \$25,537.77, \$15,000 is in CD's. \$50 was received in membership fees and expenses last month were \$980. Louise noted that she has never seen so many people at a meeting! She said membership is \$10 for a calendar year, Oct. 1 – Sept. 30. She also has Garden club aprons, t-shirts and the gardening book for sale. She noted the membership only garden tour July 10 as a perk for membership. She also brought Borax to use for Ellie VandeVisse's foliage fertilizer to share with members.*

### 4. Committee Reports

#### a. Speaker's Committee

*Jan announced that Teena Garay would be speaking this month and Brenda Adams will speak at the May meeting. She said the club is looking for someone or two people to take on the VP role and setting up speakers for club meetings – Fall through May. Speak to Jan or any Club board member if you are interested.*

#### b. Baycrest Garden Committee

*Brenda said the spring clean-up of the Baycrest Garden will be May 18 at 10 am. She said we will be digging up plants to divide for the garden sale as well as cleaning the beds. Bring hand tools and any extra pots if you have them. We will clean up, spread compost, and then bark. Please sign up for one of the weekly maintenance slots with a friend. When maintenance is done weekly it is a quick and easy job to keep it up.*

#### c. Plant Sale

*Sally reported that she met with the Chamber to set the date for the plant sale. (May 25) They asked if a Garden Club member would sit on the Chamber's Peony Task Force. (HGC donates \$250 annually to the Peony Festival) Sally asked that people bring buckets, rags, and sawhorses to the sale. She said she has pots if anyone needs some for garden sale plants. We share advertising with the Pratt Museum's plant sale, which will be held the same day. She asked volunteers to come at*

9 to help set up canopies, sort plants, set up coffee and goodies, and set up the sales area. A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around.

d. Garden Tour

Francie announced that the Garden tour will take place July 21. Tickets will be available at next month's meeting, at the plant sale and ahead of time at the Bookstore. Volunteers are needed as hosts at each garden, parking, and ticket sales. The after party will be held at Homestead Restaurant. The small garden tour for members only will be held July 10 at the Mushroom Farm. They are looking for another small garden to add to that tour.

6. Other – As well as looking for a VP, the club is also looking for someone to take on the tech position, setting up the tech at the beginning of each meeting. Don thanked all those that helped weed at his farm while Donna Rae is in the hospital.

Jason spoke for the beekeepers to promote “**No Mow May**”. He asked that people leave the dandelions in lawns at least until they are ready to go to seed, and then cut the lawn. The beekeepers group has over 100 members.

Speaker – Teena Garay has been gardening in Washington and Homer for 33 years. Her expansive gardens have been on the garden tour several times. She has traveled to China and other countries to collect seeds. Her garden is at 632 feet but her previous garden was at 875 feet and she said that was a challenge.

Teena said now is the time for spring cleaning in the garden. She pulls weeds and cleans up the spent leaves from last year. She cleans the greenhouse and pots, starts plants, and roto-tills her compost. Her tools are a garbage can, scissors, and her favorite for big jobs, a hedge trimmer.

She collects leaves and shreds them with the mower before putting them into the compost pile. Teena has 3 bins for compost but wishes she had 4. She uses chicken straw, layered grass clippings, food scraps (no meat or dairy). She doesn't turn her compost, then after a year she tills it with a small tiller before using it in the garden. Teena keeps perennials in the greenhouse all winter. They freeze, but she rarely loses anything. She will be putting plants out in a couple of weeks.

She said Homer is zone 3-4.

Zone 2 = -50 to -40

Zone 3 = -40 to -30

Zone 4 = -30 to -20

Zone 5 = -20 to -10

Zone 6 = -10 to 0

Teena showed slides and talked about many different flowers, perennials, vines, shrubs and trees (but I couldn't keep up with all the Latin names)!

Teena also has a vegetable garden with 6 beds at 25'X4'. She said Lori Jenkins is trying to overwinter artichoke and she plans to try this also. She plants her garlic in

*October and covers it with leaf mulch and plastic to keep out the rain. Music is her favorite garlic. She digs it in August to give it time to dry. She said garlic loves comfrey and she fertilizes the garlic well and adds a layer of whole comfrey plants under the plastic. She noted that comfrey spreads so be careful where you plant it.*

*The meeting ended at 3:54, the meeting was attended by over 60 people.  
The next meeting will be May 19*