

White Rock and District Garden Club

Minutes of General Meeting Held January 14, 2020

Mary Openshaw welcomed the members to our annual Potluck luncheon which kicks off a new year for the club. 33 brave souls faced our unusual blast of winter to attend. Mary gave recognition to several past Presidents in attendance; namely, Patti Wolczuk, Yvonne Pont, Eileen Davidson, Donna Lawson, Ken Parker and Claire Muirhead. She announced that the new Garden Club Web Site was live as of January 10, 2020 and that instructions for accessing it were provided on each table. The entertainer, pianist Finn Jessen was also introduced. The minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2019 were accepted as circulated through a motion and second by Patti Wolczuk and John Davidson. Members then enjoyed a delicious feast.

Members were asked to notice the Volunteer Sheet on their table during lunch - "Where You Might Help Within Our Club" and to volunteer in one or more categories and an executive member was seated at each table to answer any questions.

Members were asked to share New Year's Resolutions:

Patti wants to spend more time painting so signed up for not one, but six art classes (we are looking forward to enjoying her works of art), Eileen resolves to put up with John for another year, while he resolves to come out of it alive, Collene wishes to walk the Crescent Beach Trail every week (3800 steps), Terry will endeavour to be tolerant of her new neighbours currently building an 8000 sq. ft. house and destroying much in their wake, while Iris who arrived late, resolved to be on time in the future. Yvonne summed it all up by saying there was no point in making resolutions at this stage in life. It was all forgotten in a moment anyway.

Mary Openshaw gave a short tribute to Shirley Rines. Donna informed members that a Celebration of Life would likely be held near the end of April in Surrey and Yvonne added several sto-

ries of the overlap in her family and Shirley's lives going back to the 50s in New Westminster. She will be greatly missed.

Patti officially called for nominations for President from the floor. There being none; Mary Openshaw was declared club President for 2020. The first order of business was to deal with a tabled motion, to create a new Executive position. There was motion by Patti Wolczuk, second by Eileen Davidson to add a Director of Website. There was a call for nominations with Bev Sass being nominated by Diane Kew and Marilyn Murphy. Her election to the position was unanimous. Congratulations Bev!

Bev thanked the working committee for all their hard work and all members who submitted information and pictures for the website. The site went live Jan 10, 2020 and will include, Twitter, Instagram, etc. platforms. If one "googles" White Rock Garden Club, it should pop up. There is a **Members Only** section which can be found in the footer of the page. This section will have access to the Newsletter, Executive and members contact info. Bev fielded a few questions from members. Since having a backup person trained in this position is beneficial, Bev would like any interested persons to talk to her. Members will need a password to get into this section. Currently it is WRGC! 47. It will be changed periodically for security purposes.

The President welcomed Kathleen Butler from the Come Share Society. Kathleen thanked us for the 220 Christmas Table Arrangements that were donated this year by the club and for its' ongoing support for the society(6 years now). She explained how the society grew from a coffee club to an organization which provides day programs for individuals with a variety of conditions, which in turn provides respite for their care givers. The programs include socialization and support, training for care givers, the Better at Home program which offers cleaning and laundry services, friendly visitor program to quell isolation and loneliness, a spa tub program and even foot care. They are always looking for more volunteers to help with various programs including telephone tree. They receive funding from United Way, Fraser Health Authority, and various grant sources.

They are endeavouring to raise their profile and recently held an information session with over 300 in attendance. Claire Muirhead gave a testimonial on how the group had benefitted her late husband and now her sister and Dick Bury shared his experience with a mutually beneficial sharing of space for the Stamp Club.

Lorna Bury presented the **Treasurer's Report**. The club finished the year 2019 with a healthy bank balance.

Vice President Diane Kew reported that Louise Long is chasing down West Coast Seed catalogues for the club.

Membership: Tim Roark reported the club ended 2019 with a roster of 84 members. To date 59 have renewed for 2020 and he is in the process of contacting 30 others regarding renewal. If anyone can help with that job, he would really appreciate help.

Programs: Margrit Elmiger-Isert is currently away in Switzerland where her mother recently passed away on her 97th birthday. She has programs for 2020 well in hand.

Feb : Marilyn Holt- soil amendment

May: Christine Allen – growing great roses June: Tour to Victoria

Plants Plus: Joyce reported sales of \$32.00 and asked for help and cooperation as she tries to follow in Mary's footsteps. The focus next month will be all things "Valentine" – candles, chocolate, roses, plants, jewellery and books etc. Recruiting of workers for the Spring Plant and Bake Sale is also underway. Members were encouraged to take a sheet from the table to consider a job they could undertake.

Newsletter: John has removed the phone numbers of previous executive and will be issuing the new membership list as soon as finalized. The website address will also be published in the next newsletter.

Parlour Show: Donna announced the new schedule is being developed. She recommends that once the flower/shrub varieties on the schedule are known, that members plant their gardens accordingly to have lots available for the show benches. There is no Parlour Show in February, but anyone wishing to, could bring in a Valentine's arrangement.

Trophies: Darlene Chamberlain would like to update her record of Club properties. She requested that anyone storing anything that belongs to the club, please contact her regarding your holds for the club.

Publicity: Collene Ford is on the lookout for publications where we can advertise our club meetings "free of charge". So far she has secured the Peace Arch News and City of White Rock Recreation Guide. She is also on the lookout for a meeting room for executive meetings.

The Plant of the Month(name tag draw) was a Dieffenbachia camilla won by Margie Phillips. It is a lovely variegated leaf tropical houseplant, which can summer outside in a shaded location. The table centre daffodils were won by: Bernice Day, Diane Kew, Marilyn Gillan, Bev Sass, Iris Peacosh and Richard Bury. A gorgeous purple pansy table runner made by Sharon Brierley was won by Margaret Maddocks.

The 50/50 proceeds of \$42.50 was won by Donna Lawson. The meeting adjourned through a motion/second by Diane Kew and Linda Bradley.

Respectfully submitted,
Iris Peacosh(on behalf of absent secretary)