



WHITE ROCK and DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

General Meeting,
Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 1:30 pm.

Minutes

Meeting was presented using Zoom, and hosted by Melanie Rantucci. Twenty-one members were in attendance. Minutes will be posted on the website, members only section.

Minutes are being taken today by acting secretary, Vice President, Diane Kew.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mary welcomed everyone; expressing thanks to all who joined in the virtual meeting.

"**Welcome** to our Regular monthly meeting. Our last meeting was held on March 10, 2020 at Cranley Hall prior to becoming aware of Covid 19. Our agenda for this meeting is to inform by way of summary what's been happening since then, behind the scenes. Grab a pen and paper in case you have a question you'd like to ask at the end of my chat. We have 40 minutes and The Zoom people have given us an extra 20 minutes for our first meeting.

We have no speaker this time, but we will in October.

Guest Speaker for October: Carol Forsyth, from Mandeville Gardens is slated to speak on '*Perennials over the winter.*'

It's been a challenge - to keep meeting somehow, some way in order to stay connected, in these circumstances.

We haven't been able to hold general meetings at Cranley hall but your executive has been meeting in person at Patti and Tim's patio where we can distance safely and our last executive meeting was a Zoom meeting where we tried out that technology. Not all executive members could make that meeting. Those who did attend decided that we should try meeting with all of you on Sept. 8th, (today) to see how many would be able to attend and get used to video conferencing. The minutes of this meeting will be put up on our Webpage under the Meetings section for 2020. You can access that section by clicking on Members only at the bottom of the webpage. Once you've clicked Members only, it will take you to a page that asks you to log in. The password is WRGC!47.

For future meetings, we do have some options..... Cranley Hall is able to accommodate up to 20 persons following Fraser Health Protocol. This meeting will have no tables, no kitchen. People attending this in-person meeting would wear masks, sanitizer available, sign-in contact sheet. Those who would attend at the hall would be members who do not have access to computers. Hopefully everyone else will be able to attend the meeting via Zoom. Some of you who do not have computer access may decide not to attend the hall meeting because of personal vulnerability. (In these Covid times you are just not taking any chances)

A table will be set up for those members who will be speaking and for the Guest Speaker. Any questions being asked at the meeting will be repeated before hearing the answer from a speaker so that those participating on Zoom can hear everything. People will be asked to register with Margrit if they will be attending the Cranley meeting (limit of 20).

Our Program Director, Margrit, with help from Pat Catton has taken the lead in organizing three open garden tours. She instituted time slots of 1 hour each and provided masks, sanitizers and contact sign-in sheets at each garden. Our first tour was Patti and Tim's on June 4th. Next open garden on August 4th was Fran Deptuk's acreage in Langley and on August 11th I was gratified to see so many of you come to my open garden. It's a bit of a trek from where most of you live in South Surrey to the north end of Surrey where I live.

A suggestion that we thought about was visiting the **Secret Garden** in Tsawwassen. There is no tour guide there - it is just come by and have a walk through. If you would like to make that a destination, get together with some garden club friends and go to 399 - 67A Street in Tsawwassen. If you would like to carpool with someone - get in touch with Margrit. There is also another Spirit Garden closer to home at 2860 -140th St. Street. Perhaps you could visit both on the same day.

Something we've instituted is the **Wednesday Weekly** where an executive member sends an email with gardening tips, information, photos, etc. So far we've had information about *Hydrangeas* from myself, *What's happening on the Website* from Bev Sass, *Winter Veggies*, *Saving seeds*, *the Buddy Program* from Collene Ford, *Basic Gardening Tips from an Old Timer* from Johanna Mramar and *Remedies for pests, squirrels, slugs and critters* from Donna Lawson.

Unfortunately there will be no dahlia show at the Semiahmoo Mall this year. However, Donna and Bev have been working together to hold **Virtual Parlour Shows**. These shows are not judged and each entry receives 5 points.

The first Virtual Parlour show had four categories and there were 20 entries.

The second was held June 15 - 18 and had 10 categories with 50 entries.

The third virtual show will be held next week - September 14 - 15 with 15 categories. The Schedule has been sent to you outlining the 15 classes and the Procedures of how to enter and Donna has sent out Helpful Hints based on the Judging Rules. I'm looking forward to seeing your entries which will be posted on our website.

Making Masks - two of our members, Johanna Mramor and Linda Bradley have been making masks to sell, and donating the proceeds to the club. Contact either of them through your Membership List.

Plant Sale next year - we have secured the Ocean Park Hall for next year's plant sale on May 8th, 2021. Hopefully by then we will have figured out how to make it happen.

This year's plant sale didn't happen in the usual way. When things started locking down, I thought what the heck am I going to do with all these baggies of dahlias I've put together and

the tomatoes I've started. That was the beginning of the catalogue pages that went out to everyone by email in the White Rock Garden Club and the North Surrey Garden Club. And then it started to snowball with other gardeners donating plants and members making up hanging baskets and in the end there were deliveries in my driveway and in Melanie's driveway and curbside deliveries on Donna's street. The total sales for both clubs were over \$3,300. (Last year each club netted that amount.)

A survey was sent out by Patti and the results were emailed to you....

And the survey says:

- Your membership will be extended to the end of 2021 if you paid in 2020. The only person not on board was moving.

- Coming to a meeting -

- possibilities were to attend In-Person meetings with physical distancing and masks, either indoors or outdoors.

- zoom meeting

- combination of both whereby those who can accommodate Zoom technology attend the meeting that way and those who can't, attend the in-person meeting. And as you heard already we will be going ahead with a combination meeting on October 13th.

Using Cranley Hall and Zoom

Workshops - many suggestions. I had volunteered to do a stepping stone workshop with an imprint of hosta leaves or rhubarb leaves. And then I had a little mini stroke so I postponed that for awhile.

There was some interest in a workshop on making an herb garden or a salad garden. We are awaiting someone to volunteer to take the lead on that.

Our treasury is in good health - one of the reasons we can extend your membership to include next year.

Our membership stands at 76 + 3 lifers. If you have a friend or neighbour who would like to join a garden club, they should contact Tim to complete the necessary paperwork and pay their fee.

Our newsletter will more than likely become monthly now that John's kitchen disaster is in the final stages of restoration.

Terry, from our Plant Sale committee is asking you to save your hanging baskets to be reused next spring.

I like Dr. Bonnie Henry's motto - 'Be kind, Be calm, Keep Safe'.

After the summary by Mary, it was opened up to the members to give information or ask questions.

TREASURER' REPORT:

We are in a positive standing. The report is available verbally.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Diane is listing members who attended the Zoom meeting; and is taking notes, as requested by Mary.

PUBLICITY: All entries / information in Peace Arch Datebook section can still be submitted, but may not always be posted depending on space. Collene will include name of club, website address, new members always welcome.

WEBSITE:

Margrit requests anyone looking at photos on the website, either provide comment or push "Like" to indicate how many members are viewing them.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Tim has emailed those members who have not paid for 2020. A reminder will be included in the next newsletter. It was approved by the executive to waive fees for 2021. The clubs' insurance policy covers all events and executive meetings. Membership stands at 76 of which 3 are life members. Tim will provide cards for 2021 Anyone wishing to join the club are to contact Tim for information.

PLANT SALES / PLANTS PLUS:

Any donation of planters would be appreciated for the spring plant sale, on May 8, at Ocean Park Hall. Anyone wanting bamboo poles, 4' and 1gallon Hostas, raspberry canes, please see Terry. Melanie shared information on tomato blight. Pick unaffected tomatoes and store them under newspaper to ripen. Melanie will also be dividing perennials at the end of the season. More information will follow.

NEW BUSINESS:

Yvonne Pont spoke with Nan Devereaux 's daughter in France who appreciated the call. Yvonne thanked the executive for the work they are doing to keep the club going.

Next general meeting will be held. Oct. 13.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Patti to adjourn the meeting; meeting adjourned by 2:15 pm.

* NOTE: Since the meeting on Sept. 8th, we have learned that we will **not** be able to hold meetings at Cranley Hall. The Fraser Health protocol has changed. Back to the drawing board. - Mary Openshaw