

**Garden Club of Wilmington
Membership Meeting
October 7, 2019**

Location: Vicmead Hunt Club
Program: Business Meeting, Update on Rodney Square, and Plant Sale
Hostesses: Executive Committee

Memorial Tributes:

Marion duPont, President, asked the Membership to stand for a moment of silence in memory of Katherine Hoopes and Kitty May who have recently passed. Nancy Frederick then shared a tribute for Kitty May, followed by Joanne Cushman's tribute to Katherine Hoopes both of whom were fellow members and cherished friends.

Marion called to order the first GCW business meeting of the year.

Update on Rodney Square:

Rodney Robinson and Bill Lenihan presented an interesting history and future plans of Rodney Square, along with Geoff Anderson.

Mr. Robinson gave a history of the first Rodney Square project, which began in 1989 with help and support from the GCW and DCH. The initial renovation was completed in 1997. Over time, with heavy use and lack of government focus, the Square has declined and is in need of another major renovation.

A non profit, The Rodney Square Conservancy has been formed to promote and oversee the project and provide ongoing stewardship for the park.

According to Mr. Robinson, the renovation is a four phase effort and the funding for half of the project has been secured. Phase one, along King Street will begin in Spring of 2020. New features are to include a splash fountain area and terracing.

Mr. Lenihan explained that the forming of the Conservancy in 2017 will benefit the long term stability of the Square, maintaining a cohesive vision for the area regardless of who would hold the political reins in Wilmington. Research of other successful parks and green spaces has led to the current design. Widening the appeal of the Square and providing a safe and pleasant experience in the park are top goals.

Budget:

Marion presented the 2019- 2020 budget to the membership and asked for questions. The membership heartily approved the budget and it was unanimously accepted.

Thank you:

A heartfelt thank you to Peggy Barton for her summer oversight of the Centennial Cherry Tree Project. Peggy saved the trees from an infestation of tent caterpillar when it appeared in the heat and has been the liaison to DCH's watering team. The trees have come through an alternately wet and then dry summer, healthy and strong.

A big thank you to Meg Waldron for the new 'member format' of the Program book and to Betsy McCoy and Joanne Cushman for delivering the books this summer and saving the membership \$500.00 in mailing costs.

Meg Waldron also thanked Wendy Russell for her tireless work on our website, now brimming with GCW information. Please log on gcwilmington.org, password [garden!](#)

Conservation:

Ann Rose presented her goals for the membership with new Conservation Challenges.

- **Trex Plastic Bag challenge:**

GCW has 6 months beginning November 1 to collect 500 lbs of plastic film and bags. Upon accomplishment of this challenge, Trex will provide a bench made of TREX recycled 'lumber'. The collection is to only include clean, dry and food free plastic.

Examples are: grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, Ziploc and other re-closable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags and cereal bags.

- **Pharmaceutical recycling:**

Please continue to recycle your pills at Walgreens. You can also bring pills that are no longer needed to our monthly meeting. Barbara Cooch or Kate Hackett will dispose of the pills for you.

- **Cork recycling:**

Ann Rose will continue to collect natural corks. Cab Callaway would love to have any synthetic corks for an art project. See Anna Biggs if you can contribute

Conservation tip of the month:

Ginny Butters explained there are very few water filters which will filter out all contaminants. Ginny demonstrated the water distiller that she uses at her home. For more information on how to procure a machine, please contact Ginny.

Photography:

Mary Patterson encouraged participation in the next month's joint Floral and Photography exhibit. There are still 2 entry slots available.

There will be an additional Photography show in March.

The categories are:

Class 1: Stormy Weather – any season

Class 2: Winter a) Black & White b) color

Class 3: Reflections

Class 4: Fungi

Membership Committee:

Mary Patterson encouraged all members to think about which of their friends would enjoy membership in the GCW. The deadline to submit applications for new members is February 14th, 2020. An Active or Associate Member can propose a new member and the proposal must be seconded by two other GCW Members.

Marion du Pont adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patsy Walls
Recording Secretary