

**GARDEN CLUB OF WILMINGTON
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

Location: Vicmead Hunt Club

Program: Business Meeting, Photography Show, Plant Sale
Presentation on Renovation of Rodney Square

Hostesses: Executive Committee

President Sally DeWees called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. Attendance list is attached. A motion was made by Peggy Barton to approve the October Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Lucinda Laird. Motion was passed.

Renovation of Rodney Square:

Lucinda Laird introduced Rodney Square Conservancy Representatives Samirs Aird, Bill Lenihan and Geoff Anderson to provide an update on completed Phase I and to introduce Phase II. Phase II will cost \$3.5 - \$4.5 million (total cost is \$8 million for Phases I & II). Phase II will focus on Market Street and 11th Street sides of the Square and include the following: Restoration of hardscape; Repair all electric circuitry, including illuminating handrails; and a better ratio between paving and planting...more plants and less urban.

GCW and DCH:

Ann Wick gave a presentation about GCW and Delaware Center for Horticulture's historical relationship that has spanned about 45 years. Previous and current GCW members were highlighted. DCH was an inspiration of Emily duPont and other avid GCW members.

GCA Executive Committee:

Sally confirmed the retreat/visit November 13-15. The GCW Cocktail party was 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Elizabeth Mellon's home. Those invited included GCW members, Zone V Presidents & GCA liaisons, GCA Executive Board, and special guests.

Shirley Meniece Horticulture Conference:

Linda Eirhart reported on her attendance at the meeting September 19 – 22 in Boston, MA.

Ways and Means Committee:

Pam Biddle, Vice Chairman, announced will report next month.

Community Projects:

Pam Biddle announced prepared jars were available to use for bedside holiday arrangements that will be delivered to the residents at Kentmere Nursing Home. Arrangements should be brought to the Dec 5th membership meeting.

“Holiday Greens Arrangements Workshop”:

Mary Patterson announced a change in location for the December 12th club workshop. It will be held at DCH. Leslie Bottaro, the horticulturalist at Greenville Country Club, will lead the workshop. The cost is \$25 and the class is limited to 15 people.

Photography Show:

Lucinda Laird invited everyone to view the judged show. The results of “The Good. The Bad. The Ugly. And the Promising” are attached.

Judges:

Lynn Carbonell invited members to become Floral and Horticulture judges. Anyone interested can contact Lynn or Wendy Russell.

“The Garden Symposium at Andalusia”:

Wendy Russell announced the symposium will be held on May 4, 2023 in Bensalem, PA. Tickets are on sale and there is a discount for Garden Club members.

American Elm Story:

Betsy McCoy invited members to see the UDBG posters that were displayed at the Zone V meeting. UDBG has become a leader in the development and resurgence of the American Elm.

“Migratory Bird Walk”:

Lucinda Laird reminded members of the Nov 18th workshop at 10:00am at the Riverfront’s DuPont Environmental Education Center. The workshop will be led by Richard Laird and is limited to 15 people. Bring cameras!

Gibraltar Garden:

Lucinda asked for help to plant bulbs and weed before our GCA visitors observe this garden.

Plant Sales:

Leslie Porter, Chairman, announced the sale of unusual Spring blooming bulbs. “The Rares” from the rare plant collection (listed in the 1934 records of Ethel duPont) were for sale. The lovely autumnal luncheon centerpieces created by Ann Ashley were on sale for \$20 each.

Delaware Wildlands:

Kate Hackett, Vice Chair of Conservation, asked for GCW support to help maintain the 22,000 acres of protected habitat.

Respectively submitted,
Connie Wissing
Recording Secretary