

Weeders Meeting

September 16, 2014
Methodist Home for Children/Heritage Farm



Marilyn Sprague, President, called the meeting to order at 10:50, at the Methodist Home for Children after entries to the Flower Show had closed. She thanked Regina Wagner for serving as Chair of the meeting, and hostesses Sandy, Wendy Calhoun, Liz Price, and Lois Renthall for the food. Minutes of the June meeting were approved. Thirty-one Weeders were in attendance.

Laura Mitchell, Treasurer, said our fortunes amount to around \$50,000, that all expenses have been paid, but that 14 Weeders will need reminders to pay their dues. (Gasp!) The budget will be sent with these Minutes. She noted that Community donations to projects such as Stratford Station are accounted for separately. The need to raise the dues (for the first time in 7 years) was discussed; GCA raised its per member dues by \$10, resulting in a total assessment per person of \$62 and a total payment of \$5084 to GCA last year. The Executive Committee recommended raising regular and sustaining members to \$150 (from \$130 and \$140 respectively) and the out-of-town membership to \$120 from \$100. The motion to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation was unanimously approved.

Marilyn presented **The Katherine L. Biddle Award** for exemplary community service, (first awarded in 1978 to Bea Bast) to **Regina Wagner**, who had missed the June meeting. Marilyn cited Regina has been a Weeder for more than 17 years and has been integral to the Scholarship Committee, as well as her years of work in prisons with the Roots to Re-entry program, helping 60 graduates of a prison horticultural program to get jobs following release. She has since worked at the Heritage Farm program based at the Methodist Home, training formerly homeless women to make flower arrangements for sale. Marilyn also cited Regina as a powerful voice for Weeders environmental concerns.

GCA Founder's Fund

Marilyn said that thanks to Linda Anderson, the Weeders have seconded a proposal by the Wissahickon Garden Club to establish a one-acre meadow at historic Stenton, in Lower Germantown ("surrounded by "real" city", as Marilyn gently phrased it!) It should be helpful that the GCA was founded at Stenton. Stenton, the home of James Logan (Penn's Secretary) is already very active with the neighborhood, and Linda pointed out that 10,000 kids have visited, and that the outreach programs keep

growing. First prize is \$30,000, and second and third winners get \$10,000 each. Stenton's Director asked both Wissahickon and the Weeders to contribute money as well, as the total meadow budget is \$50,000; Wissahickon is to give \$2500. After discussion, it was moved and unanimously approved that the Executive Committee make the decision by the October 1st deadline. General consensus seemed to approve of a \$2000 donation.

Committee News/Reports

Marilyn said that Ellie Penniman and Ellen Pemberton will serve as ad hoc advisers to the **Admissions Committee**, and noted the presence of our newest member, Margaret Sager. (Welcome!)

The **Flower Show Committee** needs new members and new sites for shows.

Christmas Decorations

There will be three workshops at **Strawberry Mansion** to prepare the decorations from recycled materials, starting at 9:30 on Sept. 23rd (**new date**), Oct. 9th, and Nov. 3rd. Lunch provided, but bring scissors, and R.S.V.P. either to Strawberry Mansion, Patricia Doolittle or Lynn Gibbons.

Ronald McDonald House

Wendy Bailey reminded us that on Monday, Oct.20th at 9:30, there is a meeting at her house to do the prep work for the decorating.

Stratford Station

Alice Doering said all are welcome to join her at 9am on Tuesdays, and that they will soon be planting mums in pots. They planted 2 new trees and 6 new rosebushes. She added that most of the plants at **Concourse Lake** are surviving, but money is needed for replacements.

Gazebo Garden

Cheryl said the place is looking "fabulous", that there will a clean-up day in November, and to please bring heavy equipment, including men. She is at the Garden Mondays at 10am.

Conservation

Nancy Evans, our "trash girl", announced our next exciting trash trip, this time to Covanta Trash in Plymouth Meeting (near Ikea), where our leader will be Paul Bunn. As opposed to the interesting land-fill we visited in Birdsboro, PA. this facility is "trash to steam". The date is November 12th at 10am, and the tour should take 1½ hours.

GCA's Conservation people have established "Partners for Plants" to preserve threatened native plants and eradicate invasive ones. In Zone 5, the Garden Club of Philadelphia has committed to the study of a state park, to make recommendations about problems found there, and the Garden Club of Sewickley will attack invasive plants in their area. Weeders?? Any ideas???

Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America

Linda Anderson, Chair of the forthcoming Joint Meeting of the PCGCA, announced it would be held on Wednesday, November 5th at the Philadelphia Country Club; the speaker is much-admired Jane Pepper. Co-Chair Ellen Pemberton will do the flower arrangements for the tables, so there is no excuse why you can't be there. Linda reminded us of our valiant work on behalf of PCGCA, of planting 16,000 bulbs at Concourse Lake. Invitations to the Joint Meeting and Fertilizer Fund solicitations were distributed to all members present. Members were each encouraged to attend the Joint Meeting and to give to the Fertilizer Fund, where 100% participation is the goal.

2 members

Thanks to Maria Thompson, this proposal was clarified at the Weeders' meeting on Tuesday – the membership voted full support to the amount determined by Executive Committee as appropriate. The vote above seems clear at \$2,000.00, although several have not yet had time to weigh in.

With your support, if no further objections/opinions are forthcoming, the Weeders will support the Stenton Meadow Project with a gift of \$2,000.00, to be taken from our Vanguard funds, date to be determined. This money will be given regardless of Stenton securing the Founders' Fund grant, as long as the meadow project is completed and fully funded.

The Weeders Treasurer's Report

September 16, 2014

Cash balance on hand September 16, 2014

\$ 4,970.31

Income since 6/10/14:

Dues 2014-15

1,370.00

(total dues collected \$8570)

Total Income:

\$ 1,370.00

Expenses:

Awards

92.16

GCA Annual Dues and insurance

5,084.00

PCGCA Dues

300.00

NAL Registration fee

393.30

Ronald McDonald House arrangements

58.34

Ludington Library Committee

441.89

Secretary (mailing etc)

132.59

Website annual fee

39.95

Total expenses: \$ 6,542.23

Vanguard GNMA Fund account as of 3/31/14 \$ 43,349.00

Total Assets as of September 16, 2014 \$ 50,039.28

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Mitchell, Treasurer