Trailwood Garden Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2018

President Gloria Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Speaker**

Marie Everitt introduced the guest speaker, Matthew Bertrand. Mr. Bertrand is a program coordinator for the non-profit Friends of the Rouge, and spoke on the topic of rain gardens. He described the benefits and methodology of capturing water in landscaping before it carries pollutants into area waterways. (He provided a plant guide and rain garden construction booklet, which are posted at the club website.)

**Outreach Activities**

Gloria Rodriguez opened the business session with a discussion of the Kellogg Park Christmas Tree. It was difficult to recruit members to trim and disassemble the tree, and the decorations are dilapidated. Several members suggested skipping the tree next year; a vote will be taken as the deadline draws near.

A similar discussion was held re the holiday décor at the historical museum. Better coordination of dates and expectations is needed between the club and the museum, and among members. Barb Bray reminded the group that this is a longtime activity that many members enjoy.

**Garden Walk**

The first planning meeting for the June garden walk was held on January 9, at the Plymouth District Library, and was attended by 10 members.

Gloria recapped some of the items discussed January 9, and other topics arose, including:

* Changing the preview night to an afterglow
* Having refreshments at each garden
* Providing a dining guide for attendees
* A Garden Buddy system will be used to support homeowners; each featured garden will be assigned at least one buddy to explain procedures, make sure homeowners are aware of related events, coordinate help with weeding and prep, etc.

Cathryn Pennebaker gave an update on gardens; we have three firm, one possible, so far. Cathryn has been in touch with members of the former Canton Garden Club for other suggestions. Other efforts to find gardens, including drive-bys, outreach to landscapers, social media, etc., will be attempted before a final go/no-go decision on the garden walk is made in the near future. It also has been suggested that with three or four gardens plus an extra activity – demonstration, class, lecture, etc. – the garden walk could proceed.

Barb Bray noted that the garden walk planning meeting was productive, but that more members need to be involved. Gloria stressed that without a volunteer chair very soon for each area of responsibility, and widespread participation by all members taking some sort of role in planning and execution, it will not be possible to hold a Garden Walk in 2018.

Gloria presented sign-up sheets breaking down the various roles and responsibilities for the garden club and asking for a chair for each category, plus volunteers for specific tasks. The sheets were reviewed by members and will be posted online at SignUpGenius.com for members’ convenience.

**Upcoming meetings**

The February, March and April regular monthly meetings will be held at the Plymouth District Library in the Waldorf Room.

* It’s been decided that at the March meeting, instead of a speaker, members will do a craft. We need suggestions and a coordinator for the craft project.

**Other business**

Gloria talked to a Plymouth Township official about volunteer opportunities that club members might join – no long-term commitments, but spot help with various projects. More details will be provided at a future date.

The Michigan Division newsletter editor forgot to include our write-up in its winter edition but promised to do so in the spring publication.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Melissa Preddy*

*January 20, 2018*