Minutes of Friends of the Garden

December 8, 2011

Board Members Present: George Deatz, Robert Childress, Christine Chiu, Lee Coates, Mike Ward, Gail Wright, Cindy Baird, Dorothy Brunskill, Tom Lakowske, Bill Roston, Patrick Byers, George Freeman, Nancy Hopkins, Heather Parker, Kauleen Volentine, Deanna Armstrong, J.J. Averett, Lisa Bakerink, Brent Bothwell Palmer, Susan Cardwell, Marthe Close, Avis Holloway, Joe Kleiber, Kathy Sheppard, Linda Whiting.

Guests Present: There were 3 guests present.

Treasurer's report: Kauleen distributed the November minutes by email. Bob Childress moved to accept; the report was approved.

Minutes: Gail distributed the November minutes by email. Bob Childress moved to accept; the minutes were approved.

Guest Speaker: Alan Hale gave the program. The Botanical Society of SW Mo merged into FOG in November and Alan is the new FOG Japanese Gardening Group chair. He gave an overview of the group. Their goals are for guidance and upkeep of the Japanese Stroll Garden while adhering to the original plan. The garden needs repairs of strictures for safety issues. Also plants need to be replaced. They are making a list of what needs to be done for a new 10-year plan as the last 10-year plan ended in 2008. Fund raising will be needed for the capital improvements so ideas include plant sales, items for gift shop, and matching donors to specific projects. Parks is helping with reconstruction. They would like to increase public awareness of the garden plus increase cultural enrichment. Volunteers are needed and will be trained to help with maintenance this winter.

Marketing and Fundraising Committee: Nancy Hopkins reported for Jeanne Duffey; the committee met this week. Funds raised for the Sensory Garden now total $11,000. The Bettine Clemen concert is planned for August 11,2012, and they are looking at other possible fundraisers. An open house is planned for the January 12 FOG meeting with refreshments and prizes. All Parks partners are invited. Katie needs volunteers for Santa and Friends on December 17 to help with storytelling and making nature ornaments. Volunteers will be needed for the Lawn and Garden Show February 17.

Kauleen reported that there are a little over 1000 FOG members now. She reminded everyone that a letter is needed from her for donations over $250 for the IRS.

George Freeman reminded everyone that the deadline is 12/31/11 for the next newsletter.

Garden Committee: Bob Childress reported the following.

A new directional sign is up by the Master Gardener area.

There are 2 new signs just needing text to be completed.

The workday to lay stone edging in the Azalea Garden was cancelled due to the weather.

The irrigation installation is completed for the Cercis and Dogwood Garden; all gardens are now irrigated except for the Winter Garden.

The irrigation for the Daylily Garden has been redone.

Soil is being ordered for sculpting beds by the water feature in the Winter Garden.

Construction and irrigation has begun in the Kay Finnie Memorial Dogwood Garden. It has been funded and $4500 per year has been allotted for maintenance in perpetuity. The Ethnic Tree Trail with 32 trees has been planted with markers still to be placed. Motions were put forward to facilitate funding and organization for both projects. Marthe moved that Friends of the Garden facilitate the project funding and organization of the Kay Cummins Finnie Memorial Dogwood Garden and the Ethnic Tree Trail Memorial. The motion was approved.

Avis Holloway, Ruby and Ed Miller have adopted the Dwarf Conifer Garden, Kim Hutter along with 2 friends of Nancy has adopted the Azalea Garden.

Butterfly House Operations Group: Lisa Bakerink reported that the Junior Docent strategy is in place; they are targeting the Wolf School. A planning meeting is scheduled for Jan. 16 at the Botanical Center, and April 10 at the Nature Center. Lisa will be helping Scott more this next year.

Nominating Committee: Marthe, chair of the committee presented the new officers for 2012.

President- Nancy Hopkins

Vice President-Christine Chiu

Secretary-Cindy Baird

Treasurer-Brent Bothwell Palmer

Patrick Byers moved to approve; all approved.

Old Business: George D, reminded everyone that anyone wanting to join a committee contact Nancy or the committee chairman-you don't have to be on the board. Let Dorothy know if you know volunteers.

Funding for phase 2 of the Winter Garden is needed.

Katie reported that over 60 people signed up for Tablescapes this Saturday. She opened a new class for wreath making as the first class was filled. Santa and Friends

draw people out to the park to see the train display set up by the Ozark Garden Railway Society. They set up a Christmas display this year. She needs feedback about the playgrounds. Playcore featured the butterfly sculpture designed by Katie in their booklets and on their website. She also passed out information about the Missouri Institute of Natural Science with an invitation to visit.

Dorothy Brunskill passed out a sheet for volunteers to sign for the Lawn and Garden Show

Nancy Hopkins reminded everyone about the Board Retreat on Jan. 7 from 08:30 to 11:30. She thanked the officers; Christine is the only one returning, George passed out gifts for the officers that served with him. He then called Nancy up and presented her with a gavel with her name on it.

Marthe and Major thanked everyone for their leadership and working as a team; they also thanked Bob Childress for his work as the garden chairman.

The meeting was adjourned 0550.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Wright, Secretary.