

Miller Garden Club Minutes for November 15, 2008 meeting

Jack called the meeting to order.

The previous meeting's minutes were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report - Bernie Bonk reported there is \$12,820 in cash, including a \$5,000 CD that matures in May.

Project Report - Father Marquette - Karin Crane reported no new developments. Joanne Bauer was there to give a presentation after the meeting.

Project Report - Garden Walk – Judy Ayers informed us the site committee is continuing to look at sites. The walk is scheduled for the 3rd weekend of July. This is due to the Gary air show, which will be the 2nd weekend of July, if at all (The major sponsor suffered substantial losses in the recent flooding.)

Project Report - Brats & Bulbs – Bernie reported the event made \$132 profit. This does not include funds received for 3 new memberships and \$50 for a new Old Hobart Rd sign. We also sold some fertisorb. All leftover food was donated to the Munster flood victims. Numerous people indicated it was a lot of fun and a job well done by Bernie. Bernie thanked her committee and will do it again next year the 3rd weekend of October. She also plans to book the Aquatorium in case of adverse weather. Jack stated he would also let them know we need the 3rd weekend of July (2 days).

Project Report - Welcome to Miller Sign - Over the summer, Jennie (??) has worked on weeding and upkeep of the Old Hobart sign area. Many thanks. She also started investigating replacement of the existing sign. At the October garden club meeting, replacing the sign was approved. Judy Ayers has since taken up the project, and she spoke to the people who did the Marquette Park sign (for the city) about a similar style sign. They quoted a 3ft by 5ft sign, 3ft off the ground. The cedar posts would be buried 3 ft (below the frost line). The one Old Hobart sign would cost \$3,600. By doing 2 more signs, one for County Line Rd and one for Lake Street, we would receive a substantial discount and all three would cost \$7,000. Questions about where to situate a sign on Lake St remain. Jack Tonk is in the process of talking to the South Shore people about locating the sign on their property. A backup site would be at the Centier Bank corner. Jack is also investigating permits. The Miller Community Trust has said they could help with some grant money. Jack also has found a source for an extra \$1,000. Karin Crane recommended accepting small donations from individuals specifically earmarked for the signs. Joanne Bauer recommended lighting the signs at night. (Possibly solar.) Lee Botts stated some people did not like the sign at the MCC meeting. They mostly objected to what was on it. Judy indicated the tentative wording is "Welcome to Miller community in Gary Indiana." Several people wondered why it had to say Gary on it. Jack stated that some people feel Miller is aloof from the rest of Gary. This wording could help alleviate some of their frustrations. He thought it important to accommodate, especially if we need

city permits. Judy Ayers felt it was the gracious thing to do. Karin Crane wanted the sign to say Miller Beach to brag about our biggest asset. (Ala Ogden Dunes, Grand Beach or Beverley Shores.) Some thought the beach part was obvious.

Old Business - Election of officers - Beth McKee announced that it is time to elect officers and some Board of Directors. Three of the officers were continuing on. Bernie Bonk was stepping down as treasurer (everyone thanked Bernie), and Ruth Best had accepted the nomination. Therefore, Beth nominated the following officers:

Jack Tonk – President
Pete Riffle – Vice President
Tom Eaton – Secretary
Ruth Best – Treasurer

Beth moved we accept the slate for 2009/2010. Laura seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The terms for the three Board of Directors appointed at the time of our incorporation were now expiring. Chuck Hensel, Judy Ayers and Sue Rutsen had all agreed to stay for a second term. Beth nominated these three. Karin Crane seconded. Bernie Bonk was nominated from the floor. Bernie accepted. The motion to accept these four for the Board of Directors was moved and seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business –Wilson Tribute – Laura wondered what happened to Jim Wilson tribute. Jack noted the Shelby street planter dedication was never approved. Judy Ayers thought it unfair to the two people who have maintained the planter for many years, to dedicate the planter to someone else. Jack also noted no one ever took up the poster project. Karin Crane offered to do so, since Father Marquette is going so slowly. Laura suggested we dedicate the 10th year garden walk to Jim Wilson. Jack Tonk recommended the issue should be taken up by the Board. Beth made the motion to table the issue, and Sara Hensel seconded.

New Business – BioBlitz2009 – Lee Botts announced there will be a BioBlitz held from May 15 to May 17, 2009 in the Indiana Dunes National Park. This will be only the third such event in the nation, and the park has received a \$250,000 grant. The BioBlitz is part “scientific endeavor, part festival and part outdoor classroom. It is a 24 hour event in which teams of scientists, volunteers and community members join forces to find and identify as many local plant and animal species as possible.” Lee hopes this event will bring lots of attention to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The park is unique because of its setting; no other park exists in such a highly industrialized area. She also noted that the Miller Woods location (smack in the middle of our neighborhood) is considered the most interesting in term of biodiversity and beauty of the entire park. She would like to use the Garden Club mailing list to announce the BioBlitz. Jack suggested she give us the information and we would do the mailing.

New Business – Year-End Donation - Karin Crane noted the Board had approved the donation of 5 students' tuition to attend the Indiana Dunes Learning Center. The students are 4th graders in Tom Cernak's class at Marquette school. Lee Botts then announced she would match any individual donations up to \$500.00.

New Business – Other – Laura announced the State Park has a trip to see the Sandhill Cranes migration today. Buses leave at 2:30. Jack announced after the meeting there would be a group going to the South shore station for holiday decorating. Lee Botts announced there are numerous birders in Marquette Park today due to the windy conditions. Our refreshment stand is one of four birding hot spots.

Since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Joanne Bauer then gave an excellent presentation on the proposed renovation plans for the Father Marquette statue and gardens.