

Miller Garden Club -- Monthly Meeting March 21, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-president Pete Riffle presided, in place of Jack Tonk who was off in Arizona, basking in the sun.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There is a balance of \$12,490.88 in the treasury. The big money-maker for 2008 was the spring plant sale. The Garden Club has approved a contribution to help Tom Serynek take his fourth-grade class to camp in the dunes. Lee Botts will investigate whether this annual event is taking place this year and how much money we need to contribute in support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Sue Rutsen plans to send out the newsletter by e-mail, beginning in April. She therefore needs everyone's e-mail addresses. If individual members don't have e-mail access she could send their newsletters by mail, but she would prefer not to.

SHELBY STREET PLANTER

Pete Riffle announced that the club is thinking about abandoning the masonry planter design for Oak and Shelby and, instead, building an earthen mound with flowering plants. This would eliminate the questions of legal liability. Chuck Hensel cautioned that we would need to replace the topsoil, if we took that approach, since the current soil is full of weeds.

WELCOME SIGNS

Judy Ayers reported that we are close to having an agreement with the sign-maker. We are planning to have three signs, in green and white (like the Marquette Park signs) which will say "Welcome to Miller Beach Community, Gary, IN" They will be located at County Line Road, Old Hobart Road, and Lake Street.

GARDEN WALK COMMITTEE

Corya Channing outlined the plans for the 2009 tenth-anniversary Garden Walk, which will be held on July 18 and 19. This year's walk will be a retrospective, featuring 8 of the best gardens (out of about 65) from the first nine years of the event. The theme will be "Shore Things – Our Favorite Gardens".

The gardeners who have agreed to put their places on display are the Hoblitzels, Ken Edwards, the Martin-Coopers, Helene Newton, Sue Ireland, Tom Theis and Bill Miller, Chester Jones, and Ruth Needleman.

There will be the usual list of committees:

Garden selection	Gardening Angels
Signs and advertising	Docents
Tickets	Lunch – preparation and distribution
Parking	Transportation
Plant sale	Vendors
Reception	Water distribution
Bike tour	Celebratory dinner

The price will be \$8 to the public and \$7 to members. Tickets will be available in advance, but will not be discounted.

Jim Wilson has, once again, agreed to create a painting for the advertising poster.

GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE

Danielle Montana, who was present at the meeting, has agreed to develop and maintain the Garden Club website. She wants people to send her pictures (preferably by e-mail to daniellemontana@yahoo.com) concerning Garden Club events and activities. She also wants to have a garden club liaison to filter information and items submitted by members. The website name will be millergardenclub.com (replacing millergardenclub.net).

SPRING PLANT SALE

The annual plant sale will be Saturday, May 16, from 9 to 12. Persons who are donating plants are asked to arrive very early, so there will be time to set up shop and to price all the items. The home center will allow contributors to bring their plants the night before and store them inside their fence.

Lee Botts suggested that we make name-tags to identify the garden club workers, as apart from the customers.

Laura Demchuk noted that we will set up committees for the plant sale next month.

The members discussed whether we should get involved in selling rain barrels, which could be available at a very good price from a distributor, but we would have to know in advance how many we needed. The discussion was inconclusive.

NEW BUSINESS

The e-mail delivery service “Constant Contact” has been hired to send out all our e-mails.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sandy Rodriguez reminded the members that the Farmer’s Market will be returning to the Marquette Park United Methodist Church this summer. Following an opening day on April 19, the market will be held on the second and last Sunday of each month through October. They want to sell fresh farm goods and to encourage local farming. There will be a “greenhouse gardener” with seedlings for sale at every market, and they would like to have a “gardening table” if they can find volunteers to man it

Nancy Schoon reported that they are “growing dancers” at South Shore Dance, located in the former Miller School building. She passed out brochures describing their programs.

The Miller Garden Club’s business meeting adjourned at 11:05.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Jeff Jamroze talked about bees and bee-keeping, a business he has been involved in for the past six years.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Eaton, Secretary