

**Miller Garden Club
General Meeting,
Saturday, March 17, 2012
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Karin Crane with 38 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. Treasurer Jack Tonk reported that the year-to-date balance is \$5533.47 and the checking account holds \$11,460.60.

Project/Event Reports:

Brats & Bulbs: Bernie Bonk reported that Brats & Bulbs was successful with all brats and bulbs sold.

Christmas Decorations: Judy Ayers reported that the Christmas/holiday decorations went over well, with decorations on Lake St added to the usual garlands and lights at the South Shore Station. She gave special thanks to Mary Duggen.

Seed Exchange: Sandy Appleby's scrapbooks were a huge hit.

Pond Show: will be April 28-29 and volunteers are needed for the Garden Club booth.

Workday #1: will be Saturday, May 5. The project will be to weed and mulch Lake St in partnership with the MCC and MBA. Volunteers are to meet at the Old Town Hall.

Plant Sale: will be Saturday, May 19, at the Aquatorium. Drop off of plants and garden related goods and set up will be Friday, May 18, 4-7 p.m. and Saturday before 9 a.m. Laura Demchuck reminded all not to bring garbage and to price plants in \$.50 increments. This year's sale will feature herb starters; Bernie Bonk will pot them.

Workday #2: will be Friday, June 8. Volunteers will work in the Garden Club-maintained community gardens.

Garden Walk: will be July 14-15. Linda Kennedy and Judy Ayers reported that the theme is "Flower Beds, Bird Baths and Beyond and there are 9 gardens at 5 stops. The posters and cards are already printed; a 2' x 3' poster is ready for use at the Pond Show, Pop Ups and anywhere else for publicity. Tonya's in Chesterton will again supply lunches. The committee is already working and will be asking for volunteers to docent, drive vans, be Garden Angels and help at the Aquatorium as the Garden Walk gets closer. The June General Meeting will be devoted to the Garden Walk.

Farmers Market Booth: The Garden Club will have a booth at the Farmers Market once a month. The Market will be held every Saturday from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. in the area by the school building on Lake St. The first Market is May 5.

Outings: A mini garden walk is to be held after the meeting. In early April, the Garden Club will visit Brincka Cross Garden in Porter County. A visit to Fernwood Garden in Nilus, MI, is scheduled for August 18.

Community Gardening Projects: Garden Club will join with MBA on the Lake St effort, to be headed up by Susan Binkley and Bill Miller. MBA is contributing \$1500 and the Garden Club \$800 toward Susan Binkley's employment, approved by the Board. Existing Projects are the Aquatorium, South Shore, Library Fire Station and Lake St Planters. New Projects are the Lake St corners, Rose Garden and Cell Tower.

New Business:

General Meeting Refreshments: Judy Ayers and Jack Tonk provided them for this meeting. Judy Ayers asked that someone else volunteer for the April meeting; Tom Eaton and Jack Tonk volunteered.

Speakers For Meetings: Corya Channing reported that the April topic will be pruning. It was suggested that September's topic be about building bird feeders etc.

Publicity Committee: Joanne Stratton reported that the first mailing went out and that the committee will follow up. She asked that members note/clip anything they see about the Garden Club.

Newsletter: Marty Bohn reported that the newsletter is current; she reminded members to send information for the calendar and announcements. She asked for a volunteer to handle the May newsletter; Sue Rutsen volunteered.

Website: Jeff Okamura is working with Jack Tonk on updating and improving the website. (The Garden Club members expressed their enthusiastic appreciation.) They are contemplating a members-only section to include names and email addresses of members.

Legal Work: Pat Hofstra-Pelkey's law firm is reviewing the Garden Club bylaws in conjunction with 501C3 or 4 filing.

2012 Budget: is in the process of being completed.

Announcements:

The City of Gary is grateful for/happy with the Garden Club's efforts.

The work at the Old Town Hall is now being supported by the City.

Sue Rutsen announced that she was available to accept dues from members new and old.

Adjournment of the meeting was followed by a presentation on "Permaculture" by Marsha Bradley, 7407 Forest Avenue.