

Minutes of Miller Garden Club General Meeting  
10:00 AM, June 18, 2016, at the Aquatorium

Call to Order

President, Corya Channing , called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. She asked that we take our chairs to the west reception area at the end of the meeting.

President's Greeting

Corya C. introduced new members and welcomed all, including visitors. She asked who is new to gardening, and members shared their best tips for gardening.

Dawn V. "It's all about balance of plants, insects and birds eating bad insects."

Karin C. "Put sliced orange in garden. It attracts butterflies and orioles. Cut off seed pods if you are trying to control spread of a plant."

Melanie S. "Patience is needed for garden to become established."

Jennifer G. "Don't be afraid of empty space."

Diana "Plan, plan, plan. Be in harmony with the environment."

Laura D. "Buy bulbs at the Brats and Bulbs Sale and plant in the fall."

Joanne S. "Poison ivy: don't cut it or burn it. Poison it or pull it wearing protection."

Carol S. "Plant natives. They require less water and maintenance."

Corya C. "In spring, come to MGC Plant Sale."

Bernie B. "Plant a backdrop of evergreens for winter beauty."

Minutes of May meeting

Minutes were not available.

Treasurer's Report

Karin C had copies of the income and expenses as of May 31. She reported that we took in \$8,992.95 at the successful Plant Sale with a profit of \$5,674.54. Donated plants brought in \$700.00, and knickknack sales made \$1,882.00 that was total profit. Karen reported our budget is looking good.

Publicity

Joanne S. reported that two ads will be running for the Garden Walk during the first week in July. We are in several magazines including: Indiana Gardening, Chic Gardening, Lake Life, and Garden Gala.

Old Business

Plant Sale, Sat. Ma 21

Cleo B. reported on the very successful Plant Sale and thanked all who volunteered, along with her Co-chair, Marie Engelhardt. Leaders talked with Jan at the Aquatorium about the use of the facility. Trash needs to be taken to the dumpster west of the building and leave it by the site if it is not open.

Wellfield Gardens in Elkhart

Joanne S and members who participated in the trip reported how beautiful it was; lots of small gardens from one large one, beautiful walkways, new purposes for old brick building massive trees, and wonderful quilt garden, shops and antiques. Wellfield Gardens is one hour and 20 minutes on the toll road and worth the trip. Thanks you's to Joanne for organizing the trip.

Lake Street Community Gardens

Dawn Vanzo reported we need more volunteers. Please sign up to help. We especially need help with gardens at Centier Bank. We try to work on gardens one time per month. We will be working Thursday of this week, June 23, in preparation for the Nelson Algren events. Work Days are usually the Saturday before the first Friday of the month. Volunteers often work independently, but if volunteers want help, call Dawn. Carol S. asked for more volunteers at the Father Marquette Statue Garden in Marquette Park.

#### Farmer's Market

Darin C and Jenny R encouraged everyone to stop by the Farmers Market on Sundays. This Sunday kids can make terrariums for their dads, thanks to Sandy Appleby.

16th Annual Secret Gardens Walk "Deja Bloom", July 16 and 17

Judy A. reported she needs two check-out volunteers. Preview Friday is July 15, 5:30 – 7:30 PM to view all six gardens followed by the President's Wine and Cheese Reception at 8525 Oak Ave. The Walk starts at 10 AM–3:00 PM Saturday and continues Sunday 10 AM–3:00 PM. Bus transportation will be available until 2:00 PM both days. There will be vendors, a club booth and lunches. Final meeting is Tuesday, June 28 at 6:30 PM at Judy's home. All volunteers can come. Members are encouraged to take posters and distribute to suggested places and more.

Pat P. reported there will be something new – speakers in the Aquatorium will be: Marsha Bradley "Edible Gardens", Sue Eleuterio "Garden Folklore", Deb Doerr "Water Gardens", and Raz Bancos "Roses". Come support the speakers. There will be tables for people to eat lunch and listen to 45-minute presentations. Margaret will be taking photos. Melanie S. asked for Garden Angel volunteers to help spruce up gardens on the Garden Walk Friday morning. Please sign up with her. Thank Goodness its Over Dinner is Sunday, July 17 at 5:30 PM at the Aquatorium. Sign up to bring a dish, if you plan to attend. Judy thanked Elizabeth Wallish and Jennifer Gerber for organizing the TGIO Dinner. We must leave the Aquatorium by 8:30 PM.

Facebook and Website

No report.

Spread the Word: Protect Our Shoreline grant

Corya reported we will have a booth at the Gary Air Show in the Children's Playground area doing fun activities about native plants including rubbings of flower images.

#### New Business

Nature Photography Workshop will be Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 5:00 PM-7:30 PM at the Aquatorium. Working with Duneland Photography Club, we will offer a hands-on session: learning to photograph natural vegetation in Marquette Park including natives and invasive plants. Bring your own camera, or one can be provided for you. Fee of \$10 includes refreshments and some photographic supplies.

#### Announcements

No general meeting

There will be no general meeting in July due to the Garden Walk, July 16 and 17.

Nelson Algren Festival 2016

The Nelson Algren Festival 2016 is June 24 and 25 at the Marshall J Gardner Center for the Arts. Sue Rutsen described the activities happening at the Festival including the Nelson Algren film on Friday, the opening of the Nelson Algren Pocket Park, four speakers including Art Shay, and a live band starting at 6:00 PM. Miller Garden Club donated the soil for the planter at the Pocket Park.

Porter County Garden Event

Sandy Appleby provide "Wild Fire Strikes Home" CD's and announced the Porter County Garden Event is on the same weekend as the Gary Air Show, if you need an escape from the crowds.

We Dig Miller T-Shirts

Carol S. promoted the Miller Garden Club T-shirts for sale.

Garden Walk Posters

Judy A. reminded members to take Garden Walk poster for distribution to businesses.

Adjournment of Business Meeting

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Following a brief intermission, the speaker, Eric Dean Spruth, from Sacred Transformations, spoke about his work and the Herb Garden and Labyrinth planned for the front of his building on Lake Street.

Minutes submitted by Carol Smith