

Russell and District Horticultural Society

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2023

Marionville Community Centre

33 members attended (many were sick this time of year). Included were guests Susan Ramsey (District 1 Director), Charles Freeman (Past OHA President) and Louise Freeman (Assistant Director, District 1).

Oct 16, 2023 minutes were approved by Diane Sharp and seconded by Kathy Pitruniak.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lindley McPhail spoke about the OHA Annual Convention and encouraged other members to go next year. She promises that you will certainly learn something. She says that we are a progressive group with lots of good speakers and we laugh at lot! Charles Freeman spoke as well to say we learn by meeting people, there is always something to learn as well as sharing our knowledge.

Pegi Holz (President) says we need volunteers for the Living Locally Fair in January 20th and she passed around a sign up sheet.

Pegi reminded us to bring some extra mugs that we may have at home to the next meeting for our upcoming AGM. Attendees at the AGM will use a donated mug that day and are welcome to take it home. We will need about 125 mugs.

BUSINESS:

Pegi H gave her "Year in Review" report as follows:

Over 160 members so far

Events organized or participated in:

- Living Locally Fair
- March-It-On-Out
- Plant sales (May & June)
- tree planting with S. Nation Conservation
- OHA convention (7 attended)
- 1 AGM (12 attended)
- 3 mini flower shows
- 1 big spring flower show
- 1 junior late summer show
- 4 workshops
- garden tour
- day trips (sunflower farm and U-pick flower farm)
- clean-up after late winter storm in the park with the Scouts for Earth Day
- community garden
- seed swaps

Speakers:

- Cathie Moreau Clarke – African Violets
- Tracy Clint-Chapman – Attracting Birds to Your Garden
- Chris Craig – Native Plants and Reconciliation Garden
- Cindy Cluett – What's New in the Garden Centre
- Danielle Monroe – Growing Ranunculus
- Debbie Courneyea – Vermi-composting demo
- Mary Ann Van Berlo - How to properly plant trees and shrubs

Successful Grants – from the Russell Police Village Fund and from Russell Township for upgrades to McDougall Park

Donations made – for Russell’s 125th celebrations and for the planters and hanging baskets in town

Things produced – Yearbook, bookmarks, “business” cards with our motto, web page upgrades, Facebook postings, doorknob hangers to acknowledge beautiful gardens.

Julie Keravel gave a summary of the year with the Junior Gardeners Program. It was very successful with 27 kids ages 4-16 and 4 leaders and they met once a month at the Russell Library in their yard and parking lot. Everyone had great success with their planting of vegetables and flowers and all were very excited. The full report will be on our website. Next year’s theme will be “Frogs and Dragon Flies”

Julie is stepping down from her position for one year and is asking for someone to volunteer to help with this program. Pegi spoke about the updated Constitution and the changes that were made. A copy of the past Constitution was sent out by email to the Executives to critic a few weeks ago and a few changes were made in wording. Copies of the Constitution were on the table for the members to follow. The Constitution will be posted on the website. A motion to accept was made by Pegi H and seconded by Louise Houle.

Pegi H spoke about the Code of Conduct and read it to the members. Copies were on the table for all to see. The next printing of our membership cards will have a statement on the back to say they accept and it can be found on the RDHS website. Motion made by Pegi H to accept and seconded by Manja Bastian.

Manja Bastian, Treasurer, gave the annual financial statement. It was audited by members Frances Williams and Danielle Munroe. We ended with a deficit of \$1181.74. This was the result of more members attending the OHA Annual meeting and the Juniors using their funds up from previous years. We still have close to \$18,000 in the bank. Copies were distributed on each table.

Pegi H is asking (begging!) for some more members to be on the Board of Directors. We are a fun bunch and we need input and ideas from others. The board has one meeting in January to plan the year and we help to organize events such as the flower shows, March it out etc and to help on sub committees. Please see any board members for more information or to join. Louise also encouraged members to join.

Grace Stapper lead the election of officers and had the board come up front and introduced each person and their role on the committee as follows:

President: Louise Houle

Past President: Pegi Holtz

First Vice-President – unfilled and we still need someone

Treasurer – Manja Bastian

Assistant Treasurer – Peter VanDie

Secretary- Christine Bourgeois

Assistant Secretary – Christine Lanthier

Other Directors – Susan Barr, Linda DuHamel, Marilyn MacMillan, Diane Sharp, Grace Stapper, Carole VanDie, Marianne Vedder, Jacqueline Wyss. Kathleen Pitruniak joined and was welcomed as a new board member.

Lindley McPhail and Julie Keravel are stepping down for this year.

Susan Ramsey officially installed the Directors.

Pegi reminded each member to keep their volunteer hours as they are counted and totalled and used for grants etc. We will be collecting hours in the new year.

We had a short snack break as several members brought goodies to share.

Louise H prepared a Christmas craft for us all to do and passed out a package of pre-cut wool and cardboard piece to all members and a fun time was had as we made small toque ornament that can be hung.

Minutes prepared by Christine Lanthier