

**Lakemoor Hills Garden Club
Thursday, September 21, 2023
10:00 AM
Racheff House & Gardens**

Attendees: Kristin Bianconi, Gina Bond, Suzan Bowman, John Bradley, Rosemary Burr, Linda Haynes, Holli Rogers, Randy Kerns, Cindy McLaughlin, Kara Hudgens, Jean Bonarek, Fran Thomforde, Rita Powers and her daughter Nancy Stutts.

President John Bradley called the meeting to order.

Devotion was a brief group prayer for rain.

Minutes from last meeting were distributed for reviewed in advance of the meeting. Linda Haynes made motion to approve minutes. Jean Bonarek seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report- Dawn Thomas was not present. John Bradley reported based on the August 31 bank statement. There was no change over August. The garden club (GC) contributed \$1,000 to Lakemoor Hills Homeowners' Association (LHHA) for maintenance of the Alcoa roundabouts. Because the LHHA was successful in its solicitation of donations for roundabout maintenance it will not be necessary for the GC to contribute to the maintenance of the traffic circles for 2024. Approximately \$2,000 that has been earmarked for Legacy Park from the Resource Council remains unspent.

Reports of Standing Committee Chairs

Programs – On behalf of Kim Overman, John Bradley noted that the programs schedule for 2023-4 has been completed, is included in the new Yearbook, and will be posted on the GC webpages in the LHHA website.

Fundraising - On behalf of Sue Humble, John Bradley noted that fundraising efforts remain unchanged, consisting of pecan sales, mailbox toppers and dogwood bows. Suzan Bowman will explore interest in the possibility of including other nut selections. Suzan plans to distribute flyers for ordering at the October 7 Fall Social.

Projects – On behalf of Kathy Proctor, John Bradley initiated the review of current projects:

Alcoa roundabouts - The GC is still responsible for the plantings at the centers of the roundabouts. Kathy Proctor is looking into plants selections to replace the winter-killed pennisetums (fountain grass). Legacy Park & Gardens- Kristin reports the park, and particularly the Raingarden, is full of weeds and a new maintenance plan needs to be generated. Rosemary Burr offered to assist with a working group. Bluff Point - Upper Bluff Point median and the "Iron Bird" are status quo and the plantings at Howard's Corner are filling in. Sharon Gerkin has been shepherding the maintenance of the Bluff Point projects.

Civics - On behalf of Sharon Gerkin, John Bradley mentioned that the various GC contributions to external organizations have been made, and the ongoing effort is "Fantasy of Trees" supporting the East Tennessee Childrens' Hospital. Kara Hudgens reported that core group - Jean, Sharon, and Kara have chosen a "carousel" theme for this year. The tree is a full-sized 7' tree this year. An ornament workshop is planned for October 19, 2023 at 10 AM at Lake Hills Presbyterian Church. About 175 ornaments will need to be produced. GC members were encouraged to come join the fun. November 2, 2023 will be the installation date of the tree.

Communications - Linda Haynes noted that the 2023-4 Yearbooks were delivered by Fran Thomforde today.

Nominations - On behalf of Sharon Gerkin, John Bradley noted that the committee has it members and will begin developing the next slate of elected officers in November/December.

Social - The GC Fall Social is October 7, 2023 is at the Copeland's. GC members are recommended to pre-pay \$15/person to Dawn Thomas.

Agenda items collected by the President - John Bradley discussed a wildflower planting area at Maloney near the service road to the Alcoa Highway southbound. Gene Burr has acquired seeds. A working group of volunteers from LHHA and the GC will plant the seeds in March 2024. The South Knoxville Senior Center will have a fall clean-up. Nancy Howell, President of Chapman Highway Garden Club, will organize a work date.

"Walk-ins"-

Randy Kerns reported that the current Christmas tree at the church (a Colorado blue spruce) is too large. The plan, which was submitted to the church is to plant two new Norway spruce, let them get

established and continue to decorate the current tree until one of the new trees is large enough to become the decorated Christmas tree. At that point the Colorado blue spruce may be removed and replaced by another Norway spruce.

Suzan Bowman reported that the Deep South Garden Clubs convention will be March 2024 in Gatlinburg, TN at the Grand Vista hotel. The convention website is open for reservations by individuals. Often local garden clubs supply party favors for lunch/dinner tables. We need a Civics working group to plan our involvement.

Action Items arising from the agenda items - Today the GC honored Rita Powers as an originating member of the GC (since 1956) and serving as president for 3 separate terms. We had light refreshments. John Bradley presented Rita with a Certificate of Appreciation as a Friend of Racheff. Her dues will become the responsibility of the GC.

Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned.

Program - We then enjoyed a tour of Racheff gardens guided by the professional gardener, Pam Inklebarger.