

AGG BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 9, 2024

Joan Sanders' Home

156 Hawthorne

Atherton, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patti Spezzaferro, President

Suzanne Legallet and Mimi Hillyard, 1st VP Programs

Dana Bonham, 2nd VP Membership

Katie Blommer, Treasurer

Pam Smith, Recording Secretary

Kasey Hansen, Corresponding Secretary

Diana Bryan, Historian

Julie Douglass, Parliamentarian

Martha Woollomes, Newsletter

Carrie Drake, Website and Technology

Patti Spezzaferro, Parliamentarian

Absent

Katie Blommer, Treasurer

Carrie Drake, Website and Technology

Julie Douglass, Parliamentarian

Kasey Hansen, Corresponding Secretary

Patti Spezzaferro called the meeting to order at 9:00am

Welcome

Patti welcomed the new Board and said how much she is looking forward to a wonderful year working with them.

Minutes

July 16, 2024 Board Minutes were accepted and approved.

Treasurer's Report & Budget for 2024-25

Patti reported that AGG's finances were sound.

Board Members' Updates

The Board thanked Patti for her lovely July luncheon where she welcomed new Board members and thanked outgoing ones. She is considering a similar luncheon to introduce the Committee Chairs to each other.

Old Business

Photographing members for the website

Diana Bryan is “on the job” and looking forward to photographing members at AGG’s monthly meetings.

Floral Workshops at Atherton Library Heritage

Patti will ask Nancy Butler and Karen Handal to make floral workshops for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Library wants workshops with emphasis on teaching. They will pay for all materials.

The group discussed the need to provide plenty of support for the floral designers as there is a good deal of physical work required in a workshop— site preparation (protective coverings as needed, waste baskets, liaison with the Library site requirements), purchase of all materials, transportation of materials, set up, clean up, perhaps use of a microphone, etc.

Patti will ask Nick Hernandez if AGG could provide demonstrations instead of workshops since workshops are taxing on the floral designers.

A suggestion was made to ask the designers who they would like to assist them. Patti suggested setting up a committee to work with the designers. The goal is to have four workshops per year.

Forget Me Not Update—not discussed

New Business

Change in Atherton Library Flowers Schedule: Move to a two-member floral arrangement per week.

The Board discussed the new proposal and offered the following observations:

- More work and more expense for members and it seems a lot of trouble to make an arrangement that will only be there for only 3 days.
- Even with the current program, some members object when they are assigned arrangements 2 time a year. With the new plan, a similar number of members would need to provide arrangements 3 times a year.
- Members don’t want their work load increased.
- If we stay with one arrangement per shift, we should provide hints about how to make an arrangement that will last.
- A sign-up sheet for substitutes would be helpful.
- Diana Bryan and Dana Bonham offered to visit the Library mid-week to tend the arrangement.
- We could provide an extra orchid that could be moved to our table when the original arrangement needs to be replaced.

Ideas for 2024-25 to Explore

AGG Donations: How do we connect with organizations to whom we donate?

The group felt uncomfortable about sending out too many emails to AGG members, but they did make the following suggestions:

- On occasion, forward recipients' newsletters to AGG members
- Send interesting garden happenings periodically to members.
- The President can forward Holbrook Palmer emails, but send out only as needed.
- Mimi Hillyard suggested that the recipients should acknowledge AGG's donation in writing. It would also be nice to have a follow up as to how the funds have been used.

Horticultural Report—Add a short segment called “Ask Our Gardeners”

It was noted that where appropriate, Patti already asks for input from members with horticultural specialties, e.g., rhododendrons, Nan Ray.

Membership Connection—How to present members with an opportunity to get together?

The Board appreciated listing local events of interest in the Newsletter, e.g., September 17, Circus Club, “Holidays on a High Note,” local garden events, etc., but not too many notifications.

“Bouquets to Books” Atherton Library, May 5

At the General Meeting, Suzanne Legallet will ask members to sign up, and put an announcement in the Newsletter. She will also announce that for the Opening Night Cocktail Party, multiple guests are welcome.

The event will be ticketed. Suzanne suggested \$25 per person. The Board thought that was a good price. She also suggested that we invite the members of the Atherton City Council to opening night.

AGG Christmas Party, December 9

Suzanne suggested that members wear their best dresses and jewelry to add color and delight to the event. She will present this idea at the November meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela D. Smith, Recording Secretary