

## MGAPC General Meeting Minutes - Tuesday September 26, 2023

*Our Lady of Consolation Ministry Center - 1799 Hamburg Tpke, Wayne NJ 07470*

7:00 PM Gathering and Sign In

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Joe D'Errico at 7:04pm.

1st Vice-President, Bert Sebastian led us in the Pledge of allegiance.

**Continuing Education:** Bert Sebastian introduced guest speaker Ritika Gandhi to speak on "Painting on Silk."

A couple of lecture notes: Ritika is an artist, art teacher, and a Passaic County Master Gardener. She demonstrated the Serti silk painting technique, using 5mm silk mounted to a wooden frame. The group was invited to participate in painting a lovely flower design. Ritika teaches at The Yard School of Art and sells her art and clothing pieces at Peters Valley Craft Village craft fairs.

**Recess:** Short Recess

**8:05 PM Meeting minutes**

Joe D'Errico asked if last meeting's minutes published were accepted and members in the room replied in the affirmative.

**Reports:**

Joe D'Errico shared information on the slow moving search for a new director. They are down to 2-3 people out of 11 candidates. The interviewees are research orientated and one works in aeroponics.

Disappointing High Tunnel news was shared describing a rip in the roof, late planting of vegetables and tomatoes, and electrical issues. The golf course's direction is changing and a new horticulturist for the county is building larger high tunnels next to ours which means MGAPC can not expand.

Joe suggested the Master Gardener's get their own property. A group conversation started including questions about "open spaces." One example was open spaces at churches and the potential to teach parishioners about gardening. Another example suggested was spaces in Wayne that are in the flood zone and use raised beds. Joe suggested creating a committee to discuss this idea further and anyone interested in joining please let him know.

Joe also shared that he will not seek another term as president next year because he will be moving to Nashville.

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### **Treasurer Report:**

Peter Tomasi reported the total funds are approximately \$13,000: \$12,000 in the checking and 1,000 in the savings account. There is about \$300 in outstanding checks.

No payments have been made to projects this summer. Peter is updating the project payment instructions to be shared next month. He suggested project leaders issue their 2024 goals/budgets right away/before next year for review to find potential issues early. Our major fundraisers are membership dues and the plant sale.

Peter is taking on the management of MGAPC branded merchandise. There is currently limited inventory and he is going to reach out to vendors to discuss price and quality options. He asked members to purchase and wear branded shirts, hats, etc to events/when volunteering. A short conversation started and one member suggested the idea of a branded apron.

Jo-Ann Pituch asked about the status for the tribute plaque to Edith Wallace. There was no definitive answer. Peter will speak with Dr. Wallace in regards to future scholarship funding. Peter shared that the latest recipient gave a green house tour at William Paterson and then suggested the group align/interact more with the college.

### **Group Conversation:**

An open conversation took place about volunteer attendance, how to attract others to join, and how to boost volunteering of current members. Questions and thoughts included notes on project leaders emailing and texting volunteers, the group's facebook page and potential other apps, the pros and cons of using Zoom/online meet ups, and the importance of the Helpline. Joe suggested the creation of a committee to help communication.

### **Project Leaders:**

#### Linda Franco reported on MGAPC Christmas Party

Party is scheduled for December 5th at The Brownstone (Patterson, NJ.)

70 people need to attend to book the glass room. She requested members rsvp right away and pay before the dinner. Linda will not be able to work on this project mid November and has asked for help. For those interested vegetarian and vegan options are available.

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### Holiday Open House report by Jayne Ross

This year's theme is "Holiday in the Highlands" Scottish Heritage and we will decorate the Library. It is the 20th anniversary and will be held on Nov 30th through Dec 3rd.

They will design decorations on the 22nd-29th at her house/project homebase. Please volunteer to be a docent during the event. Travel time is included in volunteer hours. And she needs volunteers on Dec. 4th to help clean up the event.

Jayne will send out an email with more info on the style of decor and ways to give/loan items. She requests volunteers bring plaid items to her home by 11/23.

There will be a silent auction; currently the package includes Walker cookies and christmas mugs. This is the final fundraiser for NJBG Skylands and the money goes back into Skylands.

### Sunny's Garden report by Linda Franco

The garden is looking better. Canna bulbs were dug up for winter storage, they removed and sprayed herbicide on a bamboo type plant and poison ivy, and June Ra painted a tree. Members will work on the garden until mid October. The town is building a gazebo and cutting down lots of surrounding trees so the area is a mess.

### NJBG Skylands

Darlene Nowak reported the NJBG Woodland wildflower walks will end in the next few weeks. She is looking for a "buddy" to train and to help lead the weekend walks next year.

Harvestfest and Holiday Open House are upcoming events.

Save the date for next year's celebration luncheon on April 13th, 2024 for volunteers who have 50 hours or more at the garden.

Greenhouse volunteers meet Tuesday and Thursdays 9-11am, and some Sundays 9-11am. If anyone would like to volunteer at the greenhouse contact Ken Mertz to apply.

Marty Tappan reported the Lilac Garden has been pruned; some areas had a big pruning. She asked members to visit for walking tours next year and to volunteer Wednesday mornings to help maintain the 14 types of lilacs.

### Green Times

Anne Reyna suggests leaders "sell" their projects a bit more. She reminded the group that each project is entitled to a full page in Green Times. Please email her photos of any part of their projects and she will edit and "make pretty" the images and text.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by Kathie Hetherington.