Mary Kiel's notes from MGC business meeting on 10/12/2019:

- **Bylaws changes** – after going through our first year with new bylaws, we discovered 2 things that were not covered correctly in the current version. The wording about the corrections was previously sent to all members by email. The club voted to adopt these housekeeping changes to the bylaws. Mary will update the bylaws document and post it to the website.

- **Membership Renewal** – As our club membership continues to increase, we need to get more organized about how we manage the gathering of membership information, the ability to share it, and managing the renewal process. We are currently researching and testing some internet-based club membership management tools and plan to wait to process the 2020 membership renewals until we have this tool ready to go. For those of you who are members of the Hort Society, you probably already understand how this kind of tool works in general. We will not be ready to start collecting dues in October or November as in the past – but we hope to have this in place by January or February of 2020 and you will be notified when we're ready to roll things out.

- **Dues Increase** - for as long as any of us can remember, annual club dues has been $5/year. That's been pretty fun but not at all realistic. Even with 100 members, the dues income doesn't even cover 10% of what we budget to spend annually. The rest needs to come from fund-raising projects, which most of you realize are heavily weather dependent and can have fluctuating results from year to year. We have also experienced several cost increases/changes recently that are causing our annual spending to rise. For example:
    - The cost to bring in speakers (monthly plus February Outreach) has gone up significantly, from a budget of $900 ten years ago to about $1500 today.
    - We anticipate a new expense of several hundred dollars yearly for the membership management tools mentioned above
    - The board of directors decided that the club needs a small budget (and a team) to provide treats at the meetings rather than placing that burden and cost on the same few people who were doing it year after year.
    - You also may not realize that we are required to carry a liability insurance policy that costs us about $500/year, we make a small contribution for the use of our meeting space, and that we have a number of other ongoing costs for projects that the club does (like planting city hall pots, the city sign bed at Veterans Memorial Park, childrens' programming, etc) – and that's not even including the money we award as community beautification grants (currently about $2500/year) - a project that we are all very proud of!

  A team was charged with the task of conducting research to determine what other garden clubs charge for annual dues, and based on their findings, the Board of Directors has accepted the recommendation to raise the annual club dues to $20 per household (up to 2 names at same address). That may seem like a large increase, but in reality we're making up for the fact that we haven't kept up with the times. This dues increase will go into effect for 2020 and if you were following along with the math, you realize that even this amount of dues doesn't cover our costs – but it will help significantly, and we will all still be receiving much more in benefits than what we pay in. Some thought was given to a lesser increase – but we decided that it would be better to suggest what we thought was the right amount now and hopefully not have to revisit this again too soon. If the dollar amount presents a financial hardship, please contact either the membership chair or the club president as some scholarships will be available if needed.

- **Treasurers Report** – Jane Harper gave a report of the past year's income and expenses, and the budget for the coming year. A link to these reports will be sent to all members.