

LMGC June 2025 Board Meeting

President Roberta Dressen called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.

She asked Recording Secretary, Mary Meyer for approval of the minutes. Mary asked for a motion to approve the May Board minutes, Melissa Johnson made the motion, and Elizabeth Wiener seconded. Motion passed; minutes approved.

Treasurer: Mary Upjohn, Assistant Anne Kaufman

Mary stated that the LMGC has \$14,000 in checking and \$35,790 in savings. With funding of the annual meeting, and other minor expenses, she expects an approximately \$9,000 balance moving into next year. Mary is working with committee chairs for their budgets for coming year. There was a question as to where the flowers for annual meeting should be charged. Connie Linder noted that the Annual Meeting is a separate budget (not in programs) so costs incurred for the annual meeting go there. Mary indicated there will be a July budget meeting to clarify expenses.

Lake Minnetonka Garden Club was founded in 1927. The Mission of LMGC is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, horticulture, the art of flower arranging, garden history and design and photography; to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through action in the field of conservation; and to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings and civic projects.

Anne Kaufman made the motion to approve treasurer's report, Jill Pflaum seconded, motion passed. As incoming treasurer, Anne asked all new and continuing Board members to sign a conflict-of-interest form for the coming year.

Corresponding Sec & Club Admin: Laura Inglis, Assistant Dustin Macgregor

Laura reported that the 2024-25 Yearbooks are finalized and will be distributed at the June annual meeting.

Bobbie thanked everyone for turning in their committee annual reports. She invited Chairs to do a practice run of their annual reports for Thursday's Annual Meeting.

Committee Chair Reports:

Awards: Sara Pierson, Assistant Shelly McGinnis Due to the surprise nature of awards, Sara's report will be announced at Annual Meeting.

Communications: Kimberly Walsh, Assistant: Lynne O'Reilly no report

Civic Imp & Dept Garden: Lockie Markusen

Jill Pflaum reported for Lockie. Work at the garden continues to beautify what is in place. The Wayzata Panoway project is on hold therefore there will be no impact on the Depot Garden in the near future. The Garden is getting tidied-up with new annuals and perennials. A new sign will be installed on west end of the garden and will match the existing sign. Thanks to several members assisting with garden design and plant selection. Special thanks to Heidi Heiland and

her donation of plants and expertise. Thank you to members for their work and participation! Due to the transition much work is needed. The idea was raised for associate club members living nearby who might want to work at the garden.

Cons and Nat Affairs: Holly Adams, Assistant: Ellen Phelps

Holly highlighted her three goals for the year: 1) highlighting 100 yr of conservation 2) staying up to date on current issues and events and 3) attending conservation events. Holly wrote about decades of conservation work of the GCA for her Conservation Notes in our monthly program announcements. She noted the great resources under Publication on GCA website. She worked with Ellen Phelps together with the Saint Paul Garden Club for the state recognition of April as the Native Plant Month. Holly attended the National GCA NAL meeting where they had great reception at legislator's offices. Our club conservation meeting with Common Ground of Minnesota was very well received.

Floral Design: Jill Pflaum, Assistant: Carol Samuelson

Jill highlighted the Robin Ross Farms speakers at the floral design November meeting. A successful event with increased attendance and higher costs with catering.

Garden History and Design & Visiting Gardens: Cheryl Kelsey, Assistant: Tammy Hansen

Kate, Harriett Chute and Cheryl have been busy documenting the Kelley and Carmichiel garden. Cheryl is working with Tammy to schedule pop up garden visits for this summer.

Historian: Meredith Howell

Meredith reported it's been a good year with Lake Minnetonka Historical Society (LMHS) and volunteers. Sign-ups are almost full for this fall. She encouraged everyone to come and see what is involved with the archives! It's great information.

Bobbie announced that the Lake Minnetonka Historical Society has asked that our club donate all of our historical documents to them. As we are a living, active (and not defunct) organization, we are developing a letter of agreement with the LMHS that will include restrictions on the sharing of our materials with LMGC having first right of refusal as well as the digitization of our materials along with maintenance of historical materials. LMGC is not planning to eliminate materials after digitization. Digitation will continue but materials will be kept. Modernization of storage materials is being investigated. This historical work will be combined with 100th anniversary in 2027. An attorney will be compiling the legal agreement document. GCA administration has advised us and has guidelines for maintaining historical documents.

Bobbie stated that the GCA maintains information about active members and their legacy work for the GCA, as long as members are part of a club. Dropping membership in a club, such as our LMGC, means the national GCA information is lost and not documented. As a local club, we keep individual memberships so personal legacy information can be maintained in the national GCA documentation. Family members can determine if GCA legacy is important.

Horticulture: Nancy Guldberg, Assistant: Heather Haeg

Nancy noted horticulture is at the heart of our club and work. She thanked Connie for incorporating horticulture information through the monthly programs. Nancy and Mary Meyer attended the Shirley Meniece Horticulture Conference in Chicago in September 2024. The Shirley Meniece Conference for 2025 will be online, following the new alternate year online/in person format. Nancy wrote monthly Hort Hints on the program notices and encouraged members to read them. She also attended the June 2024 GCA Leadership Meeting as the incoming Hort Rep for Zone XI.

Membership, Nom. and Bylaws: Kate Bryant

Kate announced she is delighted to invite 5 new members to the club at the June Annual Meeting. There will be a fall new member orientation. She created an excel file for the history of LMGC members and their leadership roles which she will pass on to Bobbie. Kate read the following list of new officers and chairs.

The Lake Minnetonka Garden Club Officers 2025 - 2026

President - Bobbie Dressen

Vice President - Melissa Johnson

Recording Secretary - Elizabeth Weiner

Treasurer - Anne Kaufman

Corresponding Secretary - Dustin Macgregor

The Lake Minnetonka Garden Club Chairs 2025 - 2026

Awards - Shelly McGinnis

Communications - Lynne O'Reilly

Civic Improvement & -Depot Garden - Jill Pflaum

Conservation/National Affairs Legislation (NAL): Holly Adams

Floral Design - Carol Samuelson

Garden History and Design & Visiting Gardens - Tammy Hansen

Historian - 100th Anniversary Committee

Horticulture - Nancy Guldberg

Membership, Nominating & Bylaws - Kate Bryant

Photography - Jean Dovenberg

Program - Anna Lyon

Scholarship - Larey Anne Swanson

Associate Member Liaison - Mary Aamoeth

Ways and Means - Wendy Lee

Endowment Fund Co-Chairs - Mimi Keating and Mitzi Magid

100th Anniversary - Holly Adams

Web Manager: Nancy Guldberg

LMGC Administrator: Janie Delaney

Kate has also been exploring new membership categories such as younger and older membership.

Photography: Anne Kaufman

Anne reminded members to see the National June GCA enews where Becky Field has a photo in the top banner. Anne also has a photo, scroll down to the bottom of the enews.

Summary Report 2024–25

President's Theme: *Foundation 200: The Next 100 Years*

Program Theme: *Past, Present, and Future*

Submitted by: Anne Kaufman

Preserving Our Past

- Collected award-winning photos from members for the website; ongoing updates by Nancy Guldberg.
- Suggested archiving annual photography reports on the website.
- Monthly email newsletters sent to members included club updates, events, and creative challenges.

Promoting Our Present

- **Gallery Exhibit:** Held October 17 at Minnetonka Center for the Arts; featured 15 member-created flat lays and 26 additional photos, including GCA award winners.
- **Note Card Sale:** Raised over **\$2,000** for the Scholarship Fund; featured images from 21 club photographers.
- **Workshops:** Included salon-style photo feedback (July) and a mounting/editing prep session (September).
- **Guest Speaker:** Michelle Mero Riedel presented "*Photography in Your Garden*" at the October meeting.
- **GCA Recognition:** Congratulations to Harriet Chute, Becky Field, Peggy Searles, Lisa Melamed, and Anne Kaufman for awards and publication features.

Procuring Our Future

- **Upcoming Speaker:** Don Tredinnick scheduled for July 2025 on "*Culling Your Photos*" to mark World Photography Day.
- **Smithsonian Garden Project:** Members are assisting as needed in documenting the Steve Kelley and Arla Carmichael gardens.

Programs: Connie Linder, Assistant: Anna Lyon

Connie noted there are 74 confirmed people for Annual Meeting lunch on Thursday. She is

reusing the Laura Dowling program tablecloths from last year. Melissa will be doing the floral arrangements with new members. Valet service in place, parking yourself might be more efficient. Lunch at noon, revised to 12:30 PM; program at 1:00 PM. The agenda for meeting was reviewed. Melissa suggested we do Awards as the first committee report, before anyone might leave. Begin with the GCA video on Robin Wall Kimmerer, then Kate's announcement of officers and new members and then Awards, followed by other committee reports.

Scholarship: Jean Dovenberg, Assistant: Larey Anne Swanson

Jean reported a very successful year with 3 scholarship winners. Jenna Duncan spoke at our May member meeting on her biochar project. Hazel Schraeder, also a national GCA scholarship winner was featured in the recent Minnesota Landscape Arboretum news and spoke at our April member meeting(. Jean reported more contacts with colleges and universities which will help in getting more applications. Many of our applicants are getting national GCA scholarships.

Associate Member Liaison: Kitty Petit

Kitty reported on the Lavender Farm field trip for Associates last year, where they learned how lavender is grown and cared for as well as their usage.

Endowment Fund Co-chairs: Mimi Keating, Mitzi Magid

Mimi reported 67 members raised over \$512,000 in endowment pledges. To date \$342,000 has been deposited in the LMGC account with \$59,000 earned in interest.

Ways and Means: Debby Vorpahl no report

100 Anniversary: Melissa Johnson

VP report: Melissa is planning to continue to meet with new members, so they know what GCA is and LMGC expectations.

100th Anniversary Report: Lisa Melamed is creating a book about the club adding on to the LMGC 75th anniversary book. Melissa is working with Ann Marie Murrey on a commemorative dish and cache pot to raise funds for the anniversary celebration in 2027. Margot Shaw, author of the book *Living Floral*, is a possible speaker for an anniversary program. (No cost speaker due to book tour Rizzoli publisher.) The Saint Paul Garden Club's 100th Anniversary is also in 2027. Melissa has been in contact with them to determine if coordination of events is possible.

Bobbie gave an update on conversations with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and importance of continuing LMGC legacy with a club member on the Arboretum Board of Trustees. Mimi Keating will be the new LMGC member of the Arboretum Board. The new entrance to the Arboretum is of concern with what will happen to the cornerstone and LMGC plaque noting the club history in founding the Arb. There has been some confusion in recognition that the LMGC is the original funder for the founding of the Arboretum. Bobbie has discussed this with Arboretum leadership and clarity should be seen in the future. The medal that proves this is held by the Lake Minnetonka Historical Society. Bobbie is working on an opportunity for the club to be featured in the new entrance at the Arb as part of our 100th

anniversary along with a possible celebration at the Arboretum.

Bobbie recommended that all speakers shorten their annual updates for Thursday's annual meeting and use a few written notes to make their remarks concise.

Web Manager/Committee Chair: Nancy Guldberg no report

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM to enjoy a delicious brunch.

Minutes submitted by Mary Meyer.