

JANUARY 8, 2020
TriCouncil Meeting at FFGC HQ

TriCouncil **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by President Inger Jones at 9:13 AM. She recognized dignitaries in attendance. There are 19 people in attendance: 13 from Environmental, 17 from Landscape, and 16 from Gardening Council at the opening of the meeting.

Carolyn opened the meeting with a prayer incorporating the current administration themes all involving Harmony. She interpreted President Inger's logo for us and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Attendees were requested to turn off their phones.

Inger appointed Elaine Parisi as timekeeper. She announced each council will have 30 minutes to meet.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT'S report: Inger read the attached report. She reported on members: Inger announced Susan Slater is having surgery this morning. Gloria Blake broke her hip. Suzy Valentine, VP of Gardening, lost her husband yesterday.

TREASURER'S report for TC and councils: Carolyn read the attached report. She gave a brief history of the TriCouncil, which was distributed to members in their yearbook folder. Carolyn spoke about the budgets for the Councils. According to the bylaws, the TC treasurer drafts a preliminary budget for the upcoming administration. The committee, including the incoming presidents, meet and revise the draft. The final proposal is sent to all TC members with the Spring call. It is to be approved at the annual meeting. Since that did not happen in 2019, it was approved later in 2019 and is now in effect.

Barbara Hadsell and Sheryl Perkins expressed concerns that the LDCC did not have a meeting in September. Barbara would like the minutes to reflect that there was not a called meeting in September for LDCC. Inger reported the minutes are posted on the website. Brenda reported each council was given the opportunity to vote on the budget for the councils. Barbara asked a point of order. She said a general meeting of the TC is not each individual council's meeting, called to order and voting. She contends the individual council has not met and therefore there is no approved budget. She expects us to vote at this meeting. Carol Hall, Parliamentarian, stated that we voted and the budget was approved. She stated that the budget can be adjusted any time so a new budget was not voted on. Brenda clarified that members only voted in the council they were members of. Elaine asked what officially opens a meeting for a council.

MEMBERSHIP: Mary Whisler has changes to the directory to distribute. Inger announced Sue Bara has resigned from Ways and Means.

TriCouncil meeting was recessed.

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL Vice President Pat Caren called her meeting to order and read President Jackie Host's report, which is attached. Secretary's report was filed.

Carolyn Schaag reported the financial report for the Environmental Council, contained in Carolyn's attached report. She also reported on TC camperships since questions have been made known to her. She read the history of TriCouncil camperships regarding the recycling monies that are used to offset our campership line item in the TriCouncil budget. The money comes completely from TriCouncil funds and not from the Councils. All applications are considered. Carolyn addressed who is eligible to apply and reported the rationale the bylaws committee considered in writing the parameters for camperships. Carolyn reported on the Time Magazine Person of the Year. Greta Thunberg has empowered youth around the world to take care of environmental problems. She stated our youth activities are the most important activities of FFGC and expanded on how our members and clubs can provide support.

Pat Caren read a letter from Nancy Richards, Florida Environmental School chairman, promoting

Environmental school attendance and promoting environmentally sound practices members can do to promote sound environmental practices. She announced the following schools and refreshers:

Schools: **Course 3** Jan 28-9 New Smyrna Beach

Course 1 Nov 19-20 Ft Lauderdale

Tri refresher at Tropical Short Course Jan 22-23

Also **Tri refresher** at Deep South Convention 4/14-16 Tampa. See ffgc.org website for details.

Barbara Hadsell asked about the New Smyrna Beach School because Sally wants additional \$70 shortage made up. Carolyn Schaag says they are about \$50. in arrears and we are trying to help her work it out in the next course. Sally has been advised she needs more students, she is encouraged to get 2 more to refresh to cover the deficit.

Barbara Hadsell would like to have the Council state that climate change is one of the number one issues we need to address.

Environmental meeting was adjourned.

GARDENING COUNCIL President Brenda Luedeman called the meeting to order.

She read her president report, attached. Carolyn read the portion of the treasurer's report relevant to the Gardening Consultants Council. There are 56 members in the Council. The directory was printed under budget.

Membership report read by Brenda on Suzy's behalf: Including 3 emeritus members there are 59 members.

Barbara Hadsell gave her report on schools held recently and upcoming refreshers.

Susan Mello reported on a tree that is planned to be planted on FFGC grounds. She explained where it would be best to plant a flowering tree in an irrigated area near the irrigation pump enclosure. Barbara Hadsell suggested male and female dahoon hollies. Barbara Hadsell moved the FFGC Gardening Consultant's Council financially support the planting of 1 or 2 native trees on the grounds of Headquarters. The motion was seconded and adopted with 16 members voting in the affirmative. Carol Hall asked that we have an e-poll once a figure is available. Carolyn Schaag offered amendment "Planting of the tree or trees will be with the guidance of our grounds chairman and the expense will be divided equally among the three Councils up to a price of up to \$500. The amendment was seconded and adopted. The amended motion was adopted.

Inger reported the funding will come from all three councils. The speaker tonight is a licensed arborist so he could be consulted. Marge Hendon reported having a source for native trees. It was agreed that we do not need to have a full grown tree.

Next meeting at the April 2020 convention.

MEETING was adjourned.

Pat Caren temporarily reconvened the **ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL** to vote on the motion: The FFGC Environmental Consultant's Council financially support the planting of 1 or 2 native trees on the grounds of Headquarters, planting of the tree or trees will be with the guidance of our grounds chairman and the expense will be divided equally among the three Councils up to a price of up to \$500. The motion was seconded and adopted. Re-adjourned.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN COUNCIL President Sheryl Perkins called the meeting to order.

She gave her president's report. LDCC is co-sponsoring the tri-refresher at Tropical Short Course. She initiated a discussion of her criteria for a scholarship from LDCC to assist members in attending Landscape Design courses. Barbara stated the budget Sheryl initially handed out is different than the budget 'proposed' by the TriCouncil treasurer. Carolyn Schaag questioned the budget Sheryl presented since it is not a balanced budget and uses the reserves rather than current income and expenses. Sheryl stated she was following her bylaws. Discussion ensued about the line items on Sheryl's proposed budget. Carolyn stated the budget currently in effect was approved by the members in September. Brenda stated the concept of reserve funds was discussed by the Executive Board and as a member of the LDCC she is opposed to spending them. She moved to table this discussion. The motion was seconded. Sheryl reported she is basing her budget on areas she would like to spend money. She put the reserve money into her budget since the budget was not approved at the convention. Jackie Connell discussed her concerns about not considering Sheryl's new budget. She spoke in favor of the new budget. Carol Lowry Nation said since we already voted on the budget we should not be considering a new

budget. Barbara Hadsell called the question. Eleven voted in favor of tabling the discussion, so it was tabled.

FLORIDA LANDSCAPE SCHOOLS chairman: Sue Roberts gave her report. We have a class finishing course 4 in Fort Myers and a series starting in Lakewood Ranch. There is a new curriculum so you need to work on a part of your landscape during the course. We have 256 participants in Landscape Design with 41 master consultants. She would like someone to have a course in the northern area of the state. She reported that since Standing Rule 2 was adopted, schools chairmen are required to submit a financial report immediately following each course of the Landscape Design School. Sheryl I wants a motion to reaffirm the motion. LDCC members were asked to stand to reaffirm the standing rule. Brenda moved to reaffirm the SR 2 passed at the previous meeting. The motion was seconded. Discussion reconfirmed that although FFGC Finance Committee wants the financial report after each course, Tri-council wants the reports after each class. The LDCC voted 11 yes and 4 no – the motion is carried.

Phyllis Weber moved we support the tree motion: The FFGC Landscape Design Consultant's Council will financially support the planting of 1 or 2 native trees on the grounds of Headquarters, planting of the tree or trees will be with the guidance of our grounds chairman and the expense will be divided equally among the three Councils up to a price of up to \$500. Landscape members adopted the motion.

LDCC meeting was adjourned.

Tri-Council **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Carolyn Lowry-Nation suggested the council presidents be added to the bylaw committee. The 4 councils are supposed to work together.

The TriCouncil meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.