

Tri-council Annual Meeting
April 18, 2023, Kissimmee
Minutes
Inger Jones Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Pat Caren at 1:33 PM.

President Pat Caren welcomed Tri-Council members and introduced the executive board: Brenda Luedeman, VP; Carolyn Schaag, Treasurer; Inger Jones, Secretary & Parliamentarian; Carolyn Lowry-Nation, Gardening Representative; and Janice Miller, Environmental Representative.

On behalf of Tri-Council, the President extended a special welcome to former FFGC President & Deep South Garden Clubs Director Carol Hall plus former FFGC President Carolyn Schaag.

Further introductions: former Tri-Council presidents which were present: Carolyn Schaag, Inger Jones, and Carolyn Lowry-Nation.

In addition, the State School Chairmen present: Lydia Barbour, Environmental & Credentials; Susie MacPherson, Landscape Design; and Linda Johnson, Credentials Chairman for Gardening and Landscape Design Schools.

Carolyn Schaag gave the invocation and the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The President declared a quorum present.

With no objections, Linda Johnson accepted the appointment as Timekeeper. Speakers were asked to limit reports and comments to three minutes. Linda Johnson let us know when time was up by ringing a bell.

Secretary, Inger Jones reported that the minutes of the last meeting were approved by the executive committee and would be uploaded to our website after this meeting.

Treasurer Carolyn Schaag gave the financial report for June 1, 2021 – March 31, 2023:

Balance as of 5/31/2021 for TC was \$13,837.30, Camperships \$5,033.23 for a total of \$18,870.53

Total Revenue of \$15,057.92 (includes dues) for TC

Total Revenue of \$5434.88 for Camperships

Total Revenue \$20,492.80

Total Expenses of \$942.15 for TC

Total Expenses of \$600.00 for Camperships

Balance as of 3/31/2023 TC \$14,115.77

Balance as of 3/31/2023 Camperships \$4,834.88

Total Balance as of 3/31/2023 \$18,950.65. Financial report to be uploaded to the website for more details.

Carolyn Schaag presented the proposed budget that all received. Inger Jones moved for adoption of the budget. There was no discussion and President called for the vote. The ayes had it and budget was approved.

The Treasurer also made a motion that Tri-Council donate \$1000 to FFGC's 100th Anniversary. Rationale: we have had few expenses in the past 2 years. It was seconded by Inger Jones and the motion to donate \$1000 to FFGC's 100th Anniversary was approved by unanimous consent.

Inger Jones, Chairman of Finance Committee, received budgets for Gardening School Course III, Nov. 16 & 17, 2023 and Landscape Design School Course III, Sept. 20-23, 2023. These will be sent to the FFGC Finance Chairman.

The Tri-Council Environmental Representative Janice Miller read her report. There are 117 active ES students.

There was no report from the Gardening Representative.

The report of Landscape Design Representative Barbara Magnuson was read by the Secretary.

Environmental SSC & Credentials Chairman Lydia Barbour gave a report.

There was no report from SSC Gardening Mercy Abrams, SSC Landscape Design Susie MacPherson, or Credentials Chairman for Gardening and Landscape Design Linda Johnson.

President Pat Caren included a list of NGC schools being offered in Florida in the coming months:

6/6 to 6/8 UF/District V Short Course, Gainesville, Tri-Refresher

8/10 & 11 FFGC Short Course North, Cantonment

11/16 & 17 Environmental Course 3, Ft. Myers (Zoom)

11/16 & 17 Gardening Course 3, West Palm Beach (In-person)

Unfinished Business –Convention 2023

Landscaping at FFGC Headquarters and what to plant in the area where the tree fell on the FFGC President's office. President-elect Tina Tuttle requested that Tri-Council repair/upgrade the vegetation near the entrance at FFGC headquarters as well as where the tree fell. At the winter meeting, several TC members surveyed the area. Sally Flanagan, in conjunction with Charlotte White, will get together in July or August to discuss suggestions. The President suggested that we form a committee for this: Sally Flanagan, Charlotte White, and H&E chair Sue Roberts, to report to TC with their recommendations.

Sally Flanagan proposed that Tri-Council approve \$500 for the purchase and planting of a tree. The tree should be under six feet in height. The proposal was approved.

“Parking Spaces”

The President urged everyone who had not yet done so to visit the Magnolia Room where the Parking Spaces were on display. She thanked Brenda Luedeman for heading up this endeavor, as well as the representatives and chairmen, and everyone else whose hard work made it possible. TC members were urged to sign up to serve a short shift monitoring the room.

“Trashion Show”

That night after the Early Arrivals Dinner, Tri-Council was to present the much anticipated Trashion Show, which was expected to be loads of fun. The President thanked everyone who made it possible, especially Carolyn Schaag who took the bull by the horns and organized the event.

New Business:

Presentation of Tri-Consultant Certificates: Carolyn Schaag presented Mary Lou Ruiz, District XI, with her Tri-Consultant pin and certificate, and the Master Tri-Consultant certificate and bar to Anita Bachrach.

Lydia Barbour brought up a proposal for Tri-Council to instead of offering seed money for each course, or offering scholarships for students, provide \$300 that the local chairman can use to defray the cost of engaging speakers for each course. President Pat Caren said to table this discussion and that this needs to go to committee.

Announcements

There being no other new business, we moved on to announcements. Dues for the next 2 years are payable and the deadline is June 1st. They can be paid at the convention. Tri-Council membership applications are in the Magnolia Room and are available on the FFGC website in an editable format. When you conduct schools, in addition to handing out paper copies to students, please make them aware of the online form.

Tri-Council donated a tree in honor of Pat Carver, former President of Tri-Council. The tree was planted by the City of Dade City on Arbor Day, and the Dade City Garden Club planned to hold a Memorial Tree Ceremony on Thursday, April 27th at 10 a.m.

Nominating Committee – Chairman Donna Thomas gave her report.

The Parliamentarian read ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND ELECTION:

Section 5. At the Tri-Council Annual Meeting in an odd-numbered year, a slate of our four (4) Tri-Council officers consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be presented by the Nominating Committee and will serve on the Executive Committee. In addition a slate of three (3) consisting of one Environmental Consultant, one Gardening

Consultant and one Landscape Design Consultant shall be presented by the Nominating committee and will serve on the Executive Committee as Representatives providing liaison between their respective Consultants and the Officers. The slates shall be presented by the Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor will be in order. A majority vote shall elect. Revised 1-7-2022.

Section 6. Officers shall serve a two-year term or until their successors are elected or appointed. Officers shall begin their term of office at the close of the Tri-Council Annual Meeting at which they were elected.

At this time, nominations were called for from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Carolyn Lowry-Nation did the honors of installing the 2023-2025 Tri-Council Officers:

President -Brenda Luedeman
Vice President – Pat Caren
Secretary – Inger Jones
Treasurer – Carolyn Schaag
Environmental Representative – Janice Miller
Gardening Representative – Marge Hendon
Landscape Design Representative – Sally Flanagan

With no other business to be brought before the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM.

Inger Jones
Secretary