



## Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society

Annual General Meeting Saturday,  
February 25, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Emmanuel Evangelical Covenant Church  
17029 16 Ave, Surrey, BC V3S 9M5

### Draft MINUTES

1. Karen Ewing, Chair of the Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and welcomed members to the 2023 Annual General Meeting. The last in-person AGM was in 2020. We currently have 442 active members of the Society, with attendance today at 69.

2. Adoption of Agenda

**It was moved by Douglas Justice, seconded by Susan Murray to adopt the 2023 AGM agenda. Carried**

3. Adoption of February 26, 2022 AGM Minutes

**It was moved by Susan Murray, seconded by Douglas Justice to adopt the minutes of the 2022 AGM. Carried**

4. Financial Report – Cynthia Waiz

- Financial details were available on the DHGCTS's website and were displayed via projector for review. Revenues in 2022 equaled \$52,566.40, which included visitor entry fees of \$15,916.31, and a record \$9,916.85 in plant sales. The Society also received \$9,000 from a City of Surrey Cultural Grant. Expenses of \$36,861.45 provided a net revenue for 2022 of \$15,704.95. Bank fees were slightly higher as we now use a Square Reader to collect funds through debit and credit cards.
- The 2023 DHGCTS Budget was presented, as adopted by the Board. It should be noted there is an increase in payout for staffing costs, and funds are being set aside for a joint DHGCTS/CoS project.

**It was moved by Douglas Justice, seconded by Anne Sprung to adopt the 2022 Financial Report. Carried.**

- An annual audit is required. It was requested that, if a member can help provide a financial review, they should contact Cynthia Waiz or Karen Ewing.

5. City of Surrey Reports

- In Maria Fish's absence, Lauren Sim and Ken Warren provided the update.
  - Ken provided information on 2022 accomplishments.
  - The 2023 (second annual) Family Day event was successful, with over 300 visitors attending on a cold rainy day.
  - Maria Fish, Park Operations Coordinator, has an office in the lower level of the house Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.
  - Wayfinding signage is a project for 2023. The plan is in place with the first set of signs following the biodiversity self-guided tour. Wayfinding signage posters were set up in the lobby requesting member input.
  - 'Francisca Darts Passion for Plants' project: QR codes will be used to bring up videos of Mrs. Darts talking about the plant where the QR code is displayed. There will be 15 short clips throughout the garden. One of the clips was played. Susan Murray and Marlene Gurvich were part of the project and can help answer questions.

6. Chairperson's Comments

- Karen Ewing provided a summary of the Society's projects, projects based on the Constitution's purpose and Francisca Darts's vision.

- Our Collections Committee work tirelessly to ensure the preservation of the botanical garden.
- The Society provide education through workshops including moss hanging baskets and wreath making, as well as articles in the seasonal newsletter.
- We now have 5 self-guided tours available on-line. We also provided 8 guided tours in 2022 and, to date, we have 7 planned for 2023.
- We have planted 200 trees to preserve and protect the future of the garden.
- We advance the public's appreciation of the arts through the Artist in Residence program. As well, Z. Inc Artist Collective provided 16 temporary art Exhibits in the garden in 2022.
- Karen asked active volunteers to stand and be thanked. The Society could not continue without the many people who volunteer. Our workshop coordinator has just stepped down, Rosina Cuk, and we thank her for all that she has done to bring new people into the garden. Today, we are very fortunate to have Sandy More step up to take on this role.
- Karen ended her update with a quote from Helen Keller: *'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much'*.

#### 7. Elections for Board positions

Calling for nominations from the floor, **it was moved by Kathy Piccott, seconded by Cynthia Waiz, to nominate Kevin Ward to a 3-year term position.** Kevin accepted the nomination.

Once again, calling for nominations, **it was moved by Cynthia, seconded by Douglas Justice to nominate Sandy More to a 3-year term position.** Sandy accepted the nomination.

A call for nominations 3 more times and hearing no further nominees, Kevin Ward and Sandy More were acclaimed to the two vacant Board positions.

#### 8. Volunteer Recognition

Susan Murray provided a thank you to Ron Fawcett, who has fulfilled two three-year terms on the Board. One of his major accomplishments, of course, was acquiring Charitable Status for the Society.

Susan also thanked Douglas Justice, whose involvement with Darts Hill Garden began prior to the donation to the City. Douglas was personally requested by Francisca Darts to sit on the Task Force to help develop the City of Surrey's Darts Hill Garden Park Policy. Douglas has been a Board member for most of the Society's 22 years and will continue to help with the Labelling Committee and in other small ways.

#### 9. Guest Speaker: Susan Murray - "Marvelous Gardens of Ireland- 2022"

Susan Murray toured Ireland with a group. The tour included 29 gardens in 8 days, gardens from 3 acres to 1,000 acres. Ireland has a hardiness zone of 8-9. Her photo presentation highlighted fifteen of those gardens.

#### 10. Showcase of Plants from the Garden: Douglas Justice

Douglas provided clippings from the garden from some of the flowering plants or plants with unique features. Plant cuttings included 3 pieris (*P. japonica* 'Valley Valentine', *P. japonica* 'Variegata', and *P. japonica* 'Christmas Cheer'), the seed pods from a deciduous azalea, *Ilex crenata* 'Mariesii', *Viburnum farreri* (smells like baby powder) and *daphne mezereum*.

11. Today's organizing committee were thanked including the greeters and hospitality team. All the groups who donated door prizes were thanked. Door prizes were drawn.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am. followed by light refreshments in the foyer

A garden tour led by Sharon Lawson started at 12:40 p.m. from the Meet and Greet area.