



HIGHLAND SPRINGS GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Questions/feedback, contact Club Secretary, Carol Goodman

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Billy Penn, president. Attending: Delores Garbarini, Vicky Aranda, Carol Goodman, Bill Griffin.

Discussion topics:

1. A By-laws change was announced at the September general meeting so the vote will be taken at today's general meeting. Vote needed to reflect that the Questionnaire and annual dues are to be turned in by November meeting instead of December.
2. The election of officers will still be held at the November meeting. It will only take approximately five minutes during the social so there is no need for by-laws change for the election process.
3. Updates to Ice Cream Social: To be held November 4, 1-2:30 in the Arbor Room.
 - a. Vicky handed out the colorful "cubby stuffer" for the social. Beginning October 28, members will be called for RSVP's and dues reminder by the committee.
 - b. Inviting guests interested in gardening is encouraged.
4. Activities Fair: Delores mentioned several people stopped by the table and a couple of people signed the sheet to express interest.
5. The Executive Committee approved the list of door prizes for the November social that the social planning committee recommended.
6. At the January 2026 meeting Delores will have a handout for members/attendees to show what was spent during the year using member dues.
7. The Executive Committee will be working on a safety form for members to sign when joining each year. Among safety needs are always having a phone with them when in the garden area.
8. Billy and Bill will meet to determine the best cabinet for the greenhouse chemicals. They will purchase the cabinet after their fact-finding meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55am.



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Garden Club Business Meeting Minutes – Meeting called to order at 10am by president, Billy Penn.

- Minutes were approved as posted on the website: <https://hsdcommunity.org/garden>
- Treasurer's Report: There is a balance of \$2,018.88. The balance is higher than usual due to 2026 dues being deposited.
- To date, 4 members are dropping out of the club and 23 have submitted for membership.
- Lottery & Membership reminder: The Questionnaire and a check or cash for the \$30/year dues are due at the November meeting.

1. President's Report

- Garden Club/General Services: If any members have water issues in the gardens, contact Billy and he will present at every-other-week landscape meeting.
- There is ongoing discussion at those meetings about our club's priority of rabbit-proofing and fencing the gardens. New windows in the garden sheds remain in the approval process of the next Highland Springs budget.
- The landscape supervisor, Ben Greulich, has been on board nearly a month. His main area of expertise is working with golf course turf. He understands and has knowledge of what kinds of grass are needed in all the various areas of our community. Areas receiving full sun, partial sun and areas in total shade. He also works closely with our landscape company regarding flowering plants and shrubs.
- Billy mentioned that Highland Springs management has requested a document regarding safety in the gardens such as always having a phone in one's possession. This document would be signed each year during the membership drive. Education and reminders will take place during the year.
- Delores volunteered to work on such a document and to review the by-laws to see what may already exist regarding this topic.
- Billy thanked our members for their efforts, volunteering and otherwise, in keeping our gardens, tools and greenhouse in good condition.

2. Vice-Chair Report

- By-Laws Change: The change to the by-laws making annual dues and questionnaires due by the November meeting was approved unanimously.
- November Social: There will NOT be a morning meeting on the day of the social, November 4. The social is 1-2:30pm in the Arbor Room.



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- Garden Club Program: Delores, vice-chair, presented the program with a handout regarding The Old Farmer's Almanac. She discussed preparing herbs for winter, thoughts on 2026 planting and upcoming gardening events in the area. Her informative handout is attached to the minutes.

3. Garden Manager's Report

All Garden Managers requested:

- Please notify Garden Manager if you no longer want a spot in the gardens or a shelf in the greenhouse.
 - Club members please consider weeding and cleaning up beds in time for Fill and Till.
 - An option to Fill & Till is to plant a cover crop. Last year Sandy Balch planted crimson clover and Billy planted Austrian winter peas. They found this option worked successfully for them. Sandy mentioned NorthHaven Gardens has a section identified as "cover crops for this area".
 - Managers also mentioned that rabbits continue to be in the gardens.
 - Large items that have been removed from the bed (such as large zinnia plants or okra) can be placed in the garbage can or on the ground in front of the garbage cans.
 - Please do not put any plant debris or other plant matter in the compost beds.
 - Use the sign-up sheet in the garden shed if you see a need for a new tool(s).
 - Please cut back overgrown plants from the garden pathways.
 - Cutting garden in Far West Garden – Sandy Balch reported there are still herbs for cutting and a few flowers.
4. New Members: Sarah Roland was introduced as a new garden club member. Sarah is a Master Gardener who moved to Highland Springs from the Plano area.
 5. November Ice Cream Social Update: November 4, 2025 from 1-2:30pm in the Arbor Room. The theme will be fall. Guests are invited as this is the time to generate interest in the club and outreach to obtain new members. There will be door prizes. There will also be a brief period of announcements, and the 2026 officers will be voted on.
 - a. On 10/28 a telephone campaign will begin asking members to RSVP to the social and to remind them it is time to sign up for 2026 membership.
 6. Garden Club Website: Vicky Aranda presented a discussion of the Garden Club website and demonstrated that all garden club information is posted there. She provided a handout with the URL and pointed out how to find specific gardening information, photos and/or documents on the website. <https://hsdcommunity.org/garden>.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.