

ELOISE BUTLER WILD FLOWER GARDEN

A meeting was held of the Project Committee of the Friends of The Wildflower Garden, Inc. on Thursday, September 5, 1968 at the home of Mrs. R. Faragher, 3401 East Calhoun Boulevard, Minneapolis. Present were Mrs. Faragher, President, Mr. Alvin Witt, Vice President, Mrs. Martha Crone, Secretary Treasurer, Mr. Kenneth Avery, Curator of the Garden, Mr. Harry Thorn and W. H. Tusler.
Since 1959

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing a proposed building to be erected in the Garden to replace the deteriorating "office", now used by Mr. Avery, which was erected as a tool shed in 1912.

The need of the building is to provide Mr. Avery a more suitable office, to provide shelter for visitors to the Garden in inclement weather, to hold meetings, show slides and movies, to have a place to give out information, distribute literature, to sell pamphlets on birds, flowers, plants, and to exhibit articles of interest to visitors.

A rough program of the needs was outlined as follows:

A room approximately 15' x 25' with windows overlooking the garden, display cases, storage space for folding chairs and a projection screen for the showing of slides or movies. It was suggested that a method of displaying flowers, grass, ferns, etc. protected by a plastic covering be provided.

A small office with a 6' counter opening into the main room. The office should have filing space, book shelves and at one end a counter with sink and a hot plate. The office floor should be covered with carpet or other form of insulation.

A covered terrace overlooking the garden provided with benches where a small group could gather in case of rain or where a short talk could be given. A bulletin board should be provided.

Heating would be provided by a fireplace or Franklin stove and electric space heaters. As the Garden is closed in the winter, it was felt that a central heating system was not necessary.

The building should be protected from vandalism by shutters covering the windows and the opening between the office and the main room.

The present toilets will be adequate, but should be provided with wash basins with running water.

It will be necessary to bring electric current to the building for illuminating the display cases, showing of slides and movies and for general illumination.

It was suggested that a rough type of furniture be used, such as that sold by the Frontier Furniture Company at Chanhassen.

The possible cost of the building was discussed and \$14,000.00 was mentioned. The building is simple, but the difficulty of bringing material in without too much disturbing of plant life, and the distance of electrical connections add to the cost.

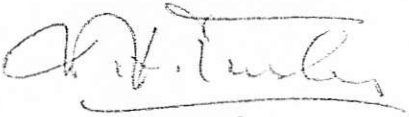
Mr. Witt suggested that the name of the Garden be changed to "Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary" in which all present agreed. We are to present this suggestion to the Minneapolis Park Board and the members of the Garden.

At the end of our meeting Mr. Lou Crutcher, representing the Minneapolis Park Board, joined us. He was briefed on the needs for a building and the proposed requirements which he will discuss with the Superintendent of Parks, Mr. Robert W. Ruhe.

Mr. Crutcher said that our first step was to present a request to the Board of Park Commissioners for their consideration. It was suggested that a letter outlining the need for such a structure be sent to each member of the Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. Thorn agreed to outline such a letter from information given to him by Mrs. Crone and Mrs. Faragher.

After the meeting we had the pleasure of seeing the Faragher's wild flower garden after which Mrs. Faragher served a very delicious lunch.

No date was set for our next meeting.


W. H. Tusler

Friends of
The Wildflower Garden, Inc.

Mrs. MARTHA E. CRONE, Sec'y.
3723 LYNDALE AVENUE NORTH / MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55412

Jan. 28, 1969.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO PROJECT COMMITTEE following Jan. 9th, '69 luncheon meeting at M.A.C. ---- those in attendance were Mrs. Faragher, Mrs. Crone and Messrs. Witt, Tusler, Avery, Thorn, guest, Mr. Leonard Odell and host Mr. Reginald Faragher.

Mrs. Faragher was asked to contact Supt. of Parks, Mr. Robert Ruhe, to learn results of recent Park Board appropriations for the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden.

Report:

As directed, I called Mr. Ruhe on Jan. 10, 1969. He was out of the city. I talked to Mr. Lewis Crutcher at some length. Mr. Crutcher was most understanding of our need of a new head-quarter's building in the "Garden". He reported that the Board of Park Commissioners had, unanimously, turned down Mr. Ruhe's large request for the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden and postponed all action until 1976.

Mr Crutcher, after again expressing his enthusiasm about our proposed location of the new building, asked if private funding for the building could be managed ----- I asked Mr. Crutcher whether or not our present obsolete building could be replaced through Park Board Maintenance. Mr. Crutcher said he would consult with the Park Board Engineering Dept. and requested that I delay a report to this committee until hearing from him.

Jan. 28, 1969 --- A talk with Mr. Crutcher revealed the following: A suggestion from Mr. Ruhe that we discontinue our \$500 a year donation to the Park Board and keep the money for our project.

If we produce a sketch of our desired facility, Park Board architects will do the working specifications.

Park Board "Engineering" will take care of excavation, wiring and running in the water.

HELP MAKE THE GARDEN MORE INTERESTING AND BEAUTIFUL EACH YEAR

Friends of
The Wildflower Garden, Inc.

Mrs. MARTHA E. CRONE, Sec'y.
3723 LYNDALE AVENUE NORTH / MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55412

We pay for our own structure according to our own specifications ---with the help of the Park Board Engineering Dept. and we may keep our present toilet facilities (Mr. Witt suggests that it would be well to check the latter with the Golden Valley authorities).

Mr. Crutcher agrees that a stained wood structure would blend well with the "Garden".

I suggest a meeting at 10 A.M. at my home, 3401 East Calhoun Blvd., on Thursday, Feb. 13, 1969. Please bring along any suggested sketch or ideas for our new shelter. Refer to Mr. Tusler's minutes of Sept. 5, 1968 as to over-all dimensions etc. This project is becoming a reality, now, and we can go ahead with our plans. \$12,000 should do this for us and it does seem that we may be able to raise this amount as we have some money in the treasury.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Faragher
Catherine Faragher (Mrs. Reginald)
- president

Copy sent to Mr. Leonard Odell and to Mr. Lewis Crutcher.

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc. *mult the 1969*

Meeting was held March 25, 1968 at the office of Mr. Ruhe of the Park Board.

Present for the Park Board:

Mr. Ruhe, Superintendent of Parks
Mr. Les Crutcher, Architect
Mr. Luke Krmtotich, Engineer

Present for the Wild Flower Garden Project Committee:

Mr. Harry Thorn
Mr. W. H. Tusler

Drawings referred to:

A topographical survey "Proposed Extension of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden in Theodore Wirth Park". Scale 1" = 50' dated October 23, 1944, and "The Martha E. Crane Shelter in Theodore Wirth Park" by H. H. Livingston, Architect, Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1' dated March 6, 1969. The above drawing being the Front and End Elevation and a plan of the proposed shelter.

We examined the topo drawing on which was indicated the proposed location looking down the open space over the bog pointing out the absence of large trees that would have to be removed. This later fact was illustrated by two enlarged photographs taken by Mrs. Faragher about two weeks before. One showing the relationship to the present office. The proposed location met with the approval of Messrs. Ruhe, Crutcher and Krmtotich.

The drawing by Mr. Livingston was discussed. It was suggested by Mr. Ruhe that the building be made about 4' longer. I explained that several of our committee felt the same way but that the problem of raising the money for construction was a deterrent. I explained that Mr. Livingston got a rough estimate from a contractor of \$16,000.00 of which the Garden had \$4,000.00 leaving \$12,000.00 to be raised.

Mr. Ruhe suggested that some access be made to the attic space for storage.

I explained that the exterior of the building was planned to be covered with shakes, except for the storage room which would have vertical boards. The roof to be of shakes of a different character from the walls. The interior to be cedar with a light finish.

The porch and the Assembly Room to have a colored cement finish, the office to have on the floor an outside carpet covering for insulation.

Attention was called to the shutters on the windows for protection from vandals.

The location of the door to the "kitchen" was discussed but it was decided to leave it as shown.

The drawing and description of the building met with the approval of the members of the Park Board.

The Park Board agreed to do the excavating for the slab but the contractor should do the excavating for the footings. The Park Board to dispose of the earth and do final grading.

The Park Board will furnish and erect a snow fence around the area contractor will be allowed to work. They will also box and protect the trees within this area.

The Park Board was asked to run the water to the present outside toilets and install a lavatory in each one. They will check on this.

I explained that we had intended running the drains from the above lavatories and the kitchen sink into perforated oil barrels sunk in a bed of crushed rock. This met with the Park Board's approval if not objected to by the City.

The Park Board said that they would like the contractor to transport all his building material to the site without the Park Board's help.

The Park Board said they had no money to loan the Garden for the construction of the building and that if they had it would, in their opinion, be illegal.

The Park Board was agreeable to changing the name from "The Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden" to "The Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary" as requested by the Garden.

The Park Board will reproduce the folder proposed by the Garden describing and illustrating the proposed shelter without expense to the Garden.

A request was made to allow the Garden to erect a mail box at Glenwood Avenue and Glenwood Parkway to receive mail for the Garden. The Park Board said this was impractical as everything that was put up, signs, etc. were torn down. They suggested that mail be sent care of the Park Board main office.

The installation of a box for donations was discussed, but was not thought practical because of the small donations and the problem of theft. It was suggested that a tract with a slip for donations attached was better.

The Park Board had originally said they would bring electricity to the building, but considering the distance they said this was questionable. Mr. Krmtotich was asked by Mr. Ruhe to check this matter with Northern States Power Company to see if they would donate the cost of this service. He will do this and report back.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

A copy of Mr. Livingston's drawing was left with the Park Board.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. H. Tusler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line above the "T" and a period at the end.

W. H. Tusler
Chairman of Shelter Committee

cc: Mr. Ruhe
Mr. Crutcher
Mr. Krmtotich
Mrs. Faragher
Mrs. Crone ✓
Mr. Thorn
Mr. Witt
Mr. Odell
Mr. Avery
Mr. Livingston

April 25, 1969

FRIENDS OF THE WILDFLOWER GARDEN, INC.
Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded for the purpose of the preservation and support of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary.

Dear Friends,

Your Project Committee, Mr. W. H. Tusler, chm., Mrs. Crone, Mssrs. Witt, Thorn, Odell, Avery and Mrs. Faragher presents to you the completed drawings for the proposed Martha Crone Shelter in the Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary. The structure, with its roofed, bench-lined terrace and rough shake exterior stained to blend with the wilderness of the Garden, was planned by architect H. H. Livingston. It will be located just to the East of the present building (to be torn down) where the Shelter will look down upon the glen.

Mr. Robert Ruhe, Superintendent of Parks, Mr. Lewis Crutcher and Mr. Luke Krmpotich, engineer, are cooperating by helping with utilities, excavating and other things which will save us money AND we may build according to our own plan. We shall have an office for our Curator, a safe spot for our increasing library, a meeting place where we may show slides, brew a cup of tea or retreat from a storm. We are hoping that you members who treasure this unique little oasis within our fast expanding city will dig into your pockets. We have paid for the plans. We have \$4,000. We must raise \$12,000 to start work this spring.

Your Board of Directors agrees that there is one person to whom we owe the preservation of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary. This will be the Martha E. Crone Shelter -- a true answer to Martha's dreams.

Mrs. Crone worked, for the sheer love of it, with Miss Butler for fifteen years. She became Curator in 1933, and until 1959 was practically sole alone in the Garden. Her experiences, with no water and no telephone, would fill a book. She went through a fire. She talked herself out of terrifying situations -- her only retreat being the little toolshed building with its flimsy screened door. There are hundreds of different wild flowers in the Garden and they are all Martha's friends.

We can do this, do it right now and do it the way we want to, if we all get in there and pitch. There are only 200 of us; some will be unable to contribute, but those of you who can will be richly rewarded with the knowledge that you have helped to safeguard and keep for future generations the Eloise Butler Wild Flower and Bird Sanctuary. Your donations will be deductible from your income tax.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on Saturday, May 17, 1969 and am hoping that, by then, we'll be able to announce that we have enough money to start construction.

Cordially and with deep appreciation to the committee that has spent so many hours on this project this past year,

Catherine S. Faragher

Catherine S. Faragher, president

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc.,
c/o Mr. Alvin R. Witt, 209 South Meadow Lane, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55416.

Minutes

To: *Leonard F. Ramberg*
From: Robert J. Dasset, Jr.--Recording Secretary
Re: June Meeting--Board of Directors of Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc.

The June 5, 1969 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Wildflower Garden was called to order by Mrs. Faragher, President, at 10:00 A.M. at her home. Those present were Mrs. Faragher, Mrs. Crone, and Messrs. Avery, Dasset, Thorn, Tusler, and Witt.

There being no old business, Mrs. Faragher called immediately for new business:

1. Honorary Board of Directors

Mr. Tusler moved that the slate of the newly constituted Honorary Board of Members be approved. Motion seconded by Avery and passed unanimously. Mrs. Crone will write to these people announcing their selection to the Honorary Board in recognition of their countless past services, and hoping to receive the benefit of their continuing interest and counsel.

Honorary Directors elected:

Mrs. R.N. Beim
Mr. Russell H. Bennett
Mrs. Dorothy Binder
Mrs. C.N. Case, Jr.
Miss Marion E. Cross
Mr. Alexander Dean
Mr. Whitney Eastman

Mr. Walter E. Lenhert
Mrs. Philip Little, Jr.
Mrs. George O. Ludke, Sr.
Mr. Carl W. Rawson
Mrs. Hazel B. Solhaug
Mrs. Clarence Tolg

2. Style of title for Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc.

In the interest of consistency it was moved by Mr. Tusler that henceforth the words Wild Flower as used on the stationery, roster, membership cards, etc., be written as one word, to wit: Wildflower. Motion seconded by Avery and passed unanimously.

3. Building Fund--Martha Crone Shelter

- a. Mrs. Crone and Mr. Witt announced a recent gift of \$500.00 for the Shelter.
- b. Mr. Alvin Witt reported that as of May 26 there was on hand for the construction of the Shelter
 - 4,660.00--General Donations
 - 4,400.00--Savings Acct.--Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc.
 - \$9,060.00
 - 2,500.00--Donations promised by July 1 by two parties
 - \$11,560.00--Total

Mr. Tusler pointed out that building costs rose 7% in 1968 and that there has been no slow down in price rises this year. \$20,000.00 instead of the original \$16,000.00 now seems the

best and most realistic estimate of the final cost of the building.

Mrs. Faragher reported having talked with Northern States Power. N.S.P. cannot donate its services. The cost of running in electricity 960 feet will be \$1970.00. The Shelter will be wired for electricity and so will be able to receive it when the \$1970.00 is available.

Mr. Tusler will check with Mr. Lewis Grutcher to verify whether the Shelter plans comply with all building code requirements of the City of Minneapolis.

Mr. Tusler also mentioned that the costs for transporting the building materials from where trucks will unload them to the building site will be considerable.

4. Working Drawings for the Shelter

It was apparent that what is now needed is a complete set of working drawings from which contractors can make a detailed estimate of costs.

Dassett moved that H.H. Livingston, Architect, be instructed to prepare complete working drawings, such drawings to show a beamed ceiling, and floor plan as shown on preliminary drawings of April 21, 1969. Motion seconded by Thorn and unanimously passed.

5. Hosts and Hostesses for Shelter

Mrs. Faragher, looking forward to completion of the Shelter, suggested the formation of a committee from the membership of the Friends of the Wildflower Garden to arrange for members to serve as hosts at the Shelter, and perhaps care for the library. An arrangement such as this would also involve more members actively.

No action was taken, but the matter will be taken up again by the Board upon completion of the Shelter.

6. The Garden

Mr. Avery reported on general conditions in the garden and noted continuing high attendance even on days with poor weather.

As a final note--both Mrs. Faragher and Mr. Tusler paid tribute to Ken Avery's real devotion to the Garden as shown in his excellent presentation and tours given to prospective members and donors and to the general public.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon, with the next meeting set for Thursday, July 10th, at 2:00 P.M. at home of H.H. Livingston, 1148 Xerxes Avenue South. Board members to be reminded by post-card.

Robert J. Barnett Jr.
Recording Secretary

Minutes

To: *Mr Leonard F. Ramsey*
From: Robert J. Dasset, Jr.--Recording Secretary
Re: July meeting--Board of Directors of Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc.

1969

The July 10 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc. was called to order by Mrs. Faragher, President at 2:00 P.M. at the home of Mr. H. H. Livingston. Those present from the Board: Mmes Faragher, Crone, Simmons, and Messrs. Dasset, Thorn, Tusler, and Witt. Mr. Livingston was present in his capacity as architect for the Martha Crone Shelter.

The minutes of the June 5 meeting of the Board were approved as circulated.

Mrs. Crone read acceptance letters from those asked to serve on the Honorary Board of Directors.

There being no old business, Mrs. Faragher called immediately for new business:

1. Memorial Book

A memorial book will be donated to be placed in the Martha Crone Shelter. Mr. Tusler moved that one book listing both gifts for special memorials and undesignated general gifts be obtained. Mr. Witt seconded, approved unanimously. Mr. Thorn will check on possible styles for such book, and also whether such book can be purchased directly or will have to be made to order.

2. Treasurer's Report -- Mrs. Crone reporting

- a. Mrs. Crone requested permission to transfer \$650.00 from checking account to savings account. This was moved by Tusler seconded by Dasset and unanimously approved.

June 23	Savings Account	\$4400.00
	Transferred	682.83
	New total	<u>\$5082.83</u>

- b. Mrs. Crone announced gift from Mr. Leonard Odell to building fund of 22 shares of stock in Economics Laboratory, Inc. Value \$949.00!!

3. Building Fund -- Mr. Witt reporting

- a. Mr. Witt reported that in addition to gifts from members, twenty-one gifts have come from outside the membership, a number of these from individuals in the St. Paul Garden Club. The Minnetonka Garden Club has also contributed
- b. Money now on hand for building:

\$4400.00	Savings Account
<u>9136.17</u>	Gifts
\$13,536.17	Total

4. Investment of money

After discussing the possibility of investing the Building Fund money in short term bonds to bring in greater income until such time as funds will be expended, Mr. Witt was delegated to discuss the matter with Mr. Leonard Ramberg of our Board and to get his suggestions.

5. Start of building

General discussion as to whether actual building of shelter should wait upon conclusion of fund raising, or whether a start should be made this fall. It was generally agreed that an early start might serve as a spur to further gifts to the building fund.

- a. Mr. Livingston: "Electricity should be run in first so that it can be used during construction."

Mr. Tusler will speak to Mr. Crutcher to see when the Park Board will re-imburse the Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc. for the costs of putting in the electricity if we advance the money now.

- b. Mr. Tusler will also talk to representatives of the Park Board about excavation for the concrete slab and provision of a snow fence to protect the building site.

- c. Mr. Tusler wants an overall building figure.

- d. Mr. Livingston suggests getting a price on the concrete slab -- back filling and footing.

- e. Action: Taking into consideration the professional judgment of both Mr. Tusler and Mr. Livingston it was moved by Mr. Dasset and seconded by Mrs. Faragher that we operate on a cost + 10% basis with Mr. Joe Peterson as the contractor. This was un-animously approved.

6. Note of thanks

The Board thanks Mr. Livingston for opening his home for the meeting and for the opportunity of examining his more detailed drawings for the Shelter.

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M. with the next meeting to be called at such time as Mr. Tusler can report results of his talk with Mr. Crutcher and others.

From the President's desk on October 2, 1969.

The Martha E. Crone Shelter is under construction. With luck, the slab will go in this week to top the cement block lined excavation and the \$919 worth of flexcore concrete beams — this ~~new~~ building should last forever. A trip to the "Garden" will make you feel proud and happy that you have had a part in this great project.

Our building fund now totals \$17,805.03. We need \$4,000 more in order to complete this fall while the "Garden" is dormant. We are proceeding as long as our money holds out.

Put a circle around Thursday, October 23, 1969
That morning at 10 o'clock Martha Crone will be hammering in a golden nail from the old building and Barbara Flannegan will be there with her photographers.

I want you all to know that we never could have gone ahead, as we have, without ~~the~~ your hard-working, enthusiastic, single-minded officers. Mr. Tushet, Building Com, Mr. Witt, Building fund, Mr. Thorn, Mr. Dasset and Mrs. Crone who has ^{have} been kept spinning with so many new memberships to process and two large memorial funds to acknowledge.

Looking forward to ^{next Spring's} ~~our next~~ annual meeting in the Martha E. Crone Shelter —
Catherine S. Faragher

Tushet was
Chair of Bldg Comm. etc.

TO:

FROM: Robert J. Dassett, Jr., Recording Secretary

RE: November Meeting - Board of Directors of Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc.

The November 6, 1969 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc. was called to order by Mrs. Faragher, President at 10:00 AM at her home. Those present were Mrs. Faragher, Mrs. Crone, and Messrs. Avery, Dassett, Thora, Tusler, and Witt.

The minutes for the October 9 meeting were read and accepted. There being no old business, Mrs. Faragher called immediately for new business.

1. Mrs. Crone's report

\$600.00 has been transferred to savings account from checking account. Present total in Mrs. Crone's savings account is \$5738.13.

✓ 2. Memorial Book

Will be composed of two sections: one designating gifts, the other to specify particular memorials in the Martha Crone Shelter for which money is given.

3. Witt's report - building fund as of October 27.

\$ 3074.64	Savings Account, First National Bank
40.00	Deposited after October 27
7752.00	U.S. Treasury Bills (purchase price)
5738.13	Savings Accounty (Mrs. Crone)
1397.00	(est.) 13 shares of Minnesota Mining given by Mrs. Fobes
3500.00	Diversified Shares given by Mr. H. J. Niles
400.00	Promised by January 1 by Mrs. Bridgeman
<u>21901.77</u>	
1358.56	Architects Fee - has already been paid
<u>23260.33</u>	Total Collected

It appears now that the money necessary for the completion of the Shelter is in or pledged, Tusler moved and Avery seconded that Mr. Joe Peterson, contractor be informed of this fact, and that he be instructed to complete the building according to drawings and specifications at the earliest possible date. Unanimously approved

4. Thorn moved, and Tusler seconded that the Board extend its hearty thanks to Mr. Alvin Witt for the countless hours he has spent working with the building fund and in acknowledging by letter each gift as it came in.

Needless to say this motion was carried unanimously and with good enthusiasm.

5. Mrs. S. G. Reed's resignation from the Board was accepted regretfully. Time and distance have made it impossible for her to attend any of the meetings.
6. Tusler moved and Witt seconded the motion for Mrs. Faragher to write Mrs. Donald Bridgman asking her to come onto the Board to fill the vacancy created by Mrs. Reed's resignation. Motion was unanimously approved.
7. There followed a discussion on the subject of the Livingston Memorial. Mr. Witt suggested finally that Mr. Tusler inform Mr. Livingston of our conversation concerning the memorial in the form of a stereo record player and the problems of upkeep and possible vandalism.

A memorial reading table for the Shelter with a suitable carved inscription on its surface was suggested as an alternative. No motion made on this matter.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12 noon amidst a general feeling of euphoria induced by the knowledge that the means were at hand to complete the Martha Crone Shelter.

The Board members present then did do justice to a lunch modestly described by our President and hostess, Cay Faragher, as just a bite, but which indeed did prove more than ample to stay the beast within us.

Respectfully submitted,

R. J. Dasset, Jr.
Recording Secretary