

Judith's Speech - 2025 Annual Meeting 8/2/2025

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Discovery Bay Women's Club, held in compliance with the governing documents of both DBWC and DBWC Eastland. The legally required purpose of this meeting is to review the activities for the prior year, to discuss plans and proposals for the upcoming year, announce the elected Directors, and transact any other business as may properly come before the meeting. Most of the requirements are met by hearing from staff and committee chairs about the work of the past 12 months and their plans for the coming year.

Tanya will review Facilities and Kena, as Staff Liaison, will cover the accomplishments of the Office. I will give a summary of what the Board has done and some of our plans for this coming year. We will throw in the results of the Board and the Audit elections, a couple of announcements, and expressions of appreciation.

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Before we go any further, there is one very important acknowledgement that I want to make, and that is to Gillian Herbert who is leaving the Board today. It has been a privilege to work with you, Gillian. You have brought us a unique perspective, and not just because of 36 years in Canada and England. Where I sometimes get caught up seeing issues as between specific individuals, you are always taking an organizational view, looking at how the situation and possible solutions fit into the structure of the Park. When I am having too narrow a focus, seeing only the immediate problem, you are using a much wider lens, and evaluating consequences that come further in the future. This ability contributes greatly to decision making by the Board. By retiring, you may be getting out of a lot of meetings, and handing your responsibilities on to others, but I'm still going to be knocking at your door, looking for your perspective! We want to give you this gift to encourage you to continue your writing, but we ask if you bring your autobiography up to current times, please change our names to protect the guilty! Thank you, Gillian!

We have another huge acknowledgment of gratitude, and that is to our wonderful staff. Our Park runs SO MUCH BETTER because we have a dedicated and knowledgeable staff working with us! From leading us through the many steps of transferring a lease or subleasing a site, to teaching us how to understand and analyze financial reports, to overseeing construction, painting fences or moving speed bumps, our staff is one of our greatest assets! Thank you all, and long may you thrive — and stay with us!

And now, reports from our Board and committees:

First up, our inimitable Secretary, Kena: Call for Quorum, Call for approval of last year's minutes, Report on Office accomplishments

Now, the Treasurer's report by Sam Blake and Finance Committee report by Paula Cassano, then the Facilities Report from Tanya Yada

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Committee Reports:

LET'S Start with THE ELECTION Committee Report and RESULTS from Deb Wertz. Gillian and Kena were the Liaisons

Welcome, Sherri! We look forward to working with you, starting with the next Board meeting, today at 12:15 p.m. in the office. We'll decide on officers and liaison assignments for committees and the meeting schedule for the coming year. Members are welcome to attend.

Activities - Sherri P was chair of the Activities for most of the year, so she will give the Committee report. Kate & Sam are Board Liaisons.

Document Review - Jeri Solomon as Chair, and Kena & I as Liaisons

LARC - our ever helpful Landscape and Architecture Review Committee, with Sherri Musgrove as Chair and Kate, Gillian and Kena alternating as Liaisons

MaGIC - The Meet and Greet Information Committee, chaired by Marion Head. Liaisons are Sam and Kate

Pet Committee We always hope they have had a quiet year! Judy Fields and Callie are co-chairs, Sam, Iggy, Chloe, Kena, Douglas and Dazie are Liaisons.

Strategic Planning, our deliberately leaderless committee, where all members are Chairs, in the best feminist tradition. Kena and Kate are Liaisons and Lynn Brem will give the report. While she is up here, she will report on the Web Team as well.

Safety Committee, whose role is vital in our Park, come rain, snow, sleet, hail or septic system failure! Kerrie is our esteemed chair and Kate and Sam are Liaisons.

Kerrie, while you are here, I want to thank you and Marrienne Nolte and Tenna and all the other women who work on the challenges of making our gatherings and meetings work. We would hear only a fraction of what's said without your efforts. Thank you!

Although CERT is not a committee of the Park, they are one of our great assets. Karen Kittlehurst is CERT leader and I want to acknowledge her and all of the CERT Team for their unceasing training and practice, their commitment to search and rescue us and our neighbors in the greater Gardiner community should a disaster strike.

We also want to thank the Recycling Team - More reliable than the Ever Ready bunny, they keep running our daily recyclables up to the trailer and taking the trailer to the Transfer Station every two weeks. They not only save us from much higher waste disposal costs, they help us keep waste out of the landfill.

And did you know that Kerrie also checks the chemical level in the pool every Friday, Saturday and Sunday to make sure we can keep it open? Every weekend! And Jackie Cairns and Kathy Angelero bring up the mail and sort it into our boxes every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in rain, wind, snow, or septic failures, all year!! These are just a few of the women here who are Sheroes in our midst!

That covers some of the accomplishments and plans by the Committees.

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Let me take a couple of minutes to touch on some of things the Board has worked on with Members and staff and what we are planning:

We hired a new CPA firm to assure alignment of our finances with non-profit tax requirements and accounting best practices. and to assure the integrity of our financial records.

We are improving the DBWC harassment policy .

There are new steward positions for the Radclyffe kitchen- Thea Albert- and library - Penny Barrett. Thank you both, it looks so much better up there! We developed a donation policy to make sure things that are given to the Park are things we want and need and can afford to maintain.

We developed an updated job description and position qualifications, conducted a reinterviews, verified references, made an offer, negotiated a commitment, and hired an Office Manager. And trained her. And then we did it again! And managed to retain Sonya to cover when Julia is out!

We added an "Open Forum" time on the Work Session agenda to invite input from all members.

We voted to finance improvements to safety in the park.

We have taken legal possession of Eastland, and it has been transferred into our stewardship. Our deep thanks are owed to Becky Stinson, Evelyn Ransom, Penny Rand and Susan Schreiber, who initiated the campaign, the donors who made it possible and the Board of the LLC that held it far longer than they anticipated, until DBWC could accept it. We now own all the property on our eastern boundary, from 101 to Old Gardiner Road!

We have all, Members and Board, been engaged in the speeding controversy. We bought additional speed bumps, which did not prove to be a solution to speeding in the Park. We removed the new speed bumps, which is not a solution to speeding or dust in the Park. The search for a solution will continue into the new year, and possibly to the end of recorded time. Tune in to the August meetings! Meanwhile, remember: **ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT SPEED BUMPS! SLOW DOWN!**

We Approved the placement of one or two sheds near the laundry room parking lot to store emergency items. There are issues in this whole area of disaster preparedness that we will be working on and that come up again in the next paragraph.

We instituted Community study sessions and held two. We are planning to do several more this coming year, beginning with a Community Meeting at 2pm on August 20, in the Ramada to discuss emergency preparedness and what changes we might make in the Park to be more ready to handle any disasters that come our way. We will get more information out to you as soon as we finalize the plans. It will be very important for you to participate in this study session as it so directly impacts the future of the Park. The board and the membership need to hear from you!

We created a small working group - the Poo Crew - Leslie, Tenna, Jolda and me - to support and assist the Facilities Manager as she responds to the septic system issues. Our primary goal is getting a viable working system. The septic system has been an overriding concern all year, and will continue to be our priority until we get it fixed!

We - The Board - have responsibilities to you, but we don't operate this park alone. We didn't do this weekend alone either. I want to acknowledge and celebrate the women who stepped up and organized the games and meals for us: Julie and Thea as the overall planners, Thea, Gale and Paula and Leslie and the Peddlers and their helpers with the food, and Kerrie, Maryanne and Tenna for the sound system. And the creative spirits who gave us this weekend's games: Sila, Sharon Murphy and the Ice Cream socialites. I know there are more you, there are always more! to everyone who helped, thank you!

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Are you tired of sitting? In closing, let's do a brief exercise and recognize the women who are doing so much to support our community! Did you volunteer for LARC or help with loading, hauling and tossing the recycling or setting up and cleaning up after yet another delicious potluck or birthday party? If you did, please stand up! And stay on your feet.

Were you culling apples and pruning the orchard, moving the blueberry bushes, sorting library books, creating and implementing a plan to for emergency food buckets to keep us self-reliant, helping fill the buckets, or creating a stock pile of food to feed us all in a catastrophe? Stand up!

Driving a neighbor to a medical appointment or weeding the memorial garden or watering the rhododendron, or sorting the mail - if you have helped, stand up!

Did you take someone else's dog for a walk when they couldn't? Or down to doggy play time? Did you have a smile and a friendly "Hello" to a new face in the Park? Did you fix someone's whatsit or mend their thingamajigger? Stand up!

Did you do something silly to make others laugh, or post something inspirational or funny or thought provoking or a beautiful photo in the Chat Room? Did you sing at the salon? For that matter, did you host a salon? Or a bike ride? Stand up!

Did you voice an opinion in a Work Session? Did you volunteer, against all advice and your own qualms, to serve on a committee or the Board? We have all participated in creating this community, so

Stand up!

If I keep listing the things we do for each other, we will be here all afternoon! A great joy and sense of satisfaction should rise in us because we have participated in building a wonderful Park. It takes us all to make DBWC, and we are amazing! We can honor the women we particularly want to thank by writing a few words of appreciation on the SHERO boards that will be on the tables here this afternoon. Let's tell each other how glad we are to have each other in our lives!

Now I'll entertain a motion to adjourn!