

PEW Garden Club Minutes

December 6, 2021

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY JANUARY 3, 2022 at 2:00pm

Meeting called to order at 2:10 p.m. 28 members attended.

The meeting began with a presentation by Anna and Alison, representatives from **Vector Control**.

The discussion covered both mosquitoes and rats, pests that can spread diseases. Please read **Debbie's summary** of this presentation in the next Hilltopper; she did an excellent job.

Mosquitos – Since 2014, a new species of mosquito, called Aedes, has spread from east to west. Aedes carries no know diseases at this time. It's an invasive and aggressive pest. They can breed almost anywhere there is standing water, and eggs can become adults within 7 days. They're hard to see and will bite your ankles and other areas as well multiple times. They are a real nuisance!!

Protection - The best way to fight them is to use such things as Deet, Picaridi, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR 3535 skin on clothing as directed on the label. These products will last 4 to 6 hours. Just enough time to do some serious work in your garden!

Rats – the signs that you may have rats – gnaw marks, torn or shredded paper, droppings, or faint trails. Dense vegetation can be a home for rats.

Protection -Seal openings larger than a quarter with foam and mesh or steel wool.Roof rats are most common in this area. They can jump 4 to 6 feet. Traps are better than poison. Or, get a cat!! To clean up droppings, wear gloves and use a 10% bleach.

Treasurer – current balance in the account - \$304.42.

Education – Sally has joined Marilyn in this area. They will provide a "what to do each month" handout at each meeting.

Alice reported on the steering committee visit to **Waterwise**. They found a number of succulents that will be an excellent addition to the area in front of the clubhouse.

In January, **Merlin and Ann** will meet with the Board to present plans for improving the area in front of the clubhouse and ideas for establishing a community garden.

Robin reported on the excellent field trip to Weidner's gardens. They have an excellent collection of poinsettias and other plants. Suggest you visit them.

Cheri suggested a field trip to Balboa Park Rose Garden in March.

Marie won the door prize that was provided by Susie Butler, door prize coordinator.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.