



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2014

The January 2014 meeting of the Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County Board was held at the WSU Thurston County Extension Office in Olympia and called to order by President Julie Sandberg at 5:40 pm.

Board Members Present:

Julie Sandberg, President
Toni Ghazal, Past President
Kaleen Cottingham, Vice President
Linda Talen, Treasurer

Others Present:

Cori Carlton, Program Manager
Michelle Kozminski, Americorps Intern
Penny Locke, Nancy Poultney, Handicrafts Committee co-chairs

The published agenda was covered as follows:

1. Handicraft Committee Report

Penny Locke and Nancy Poultney provided an update on the budget and activities for the Committee. The Handicrafts Committee had a net income of \$3634.05 in 2013, and a total of \$9,908.73 since its inception in 2011. Their committee recently met to review items sold and determined their products were too diverse and unique. They will be discontinuing some items and adding the following: worms for the Plant Sale, shoulder wrap w/flax, possibly fused glass products, stands for pots/bowling balls, canvas tool totes for wreaths for the holiday bazaar. Because of storage and hauling concerns they want less bulky items.

Penny presented a new fundraising idea to purchase a quilt kit that would have the labor donated. The product would be displayed at different events with raffle tickets sold. The drawing would be held at the end of the year. After much discussion the Board asked that additional information be provided on the costs and marketing ideas at the February Board meeting. There also was a suggestion that garden tools be offered as a retail item. Julie Sandberg will have more information presented at the next meeting. Cori suggested that with the county plastic bag ban starting in July, that canvas totes with the MG logo might be a good item to offer. Penny will get costs on that suggestion and bring back to the Board.

2. Minutes of December Board Meeting

Minutes of December 2013 meeting were approved with corrections.

MOTION: Cottingham/Ghazal. Passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

Linda provided the 2013 financial report now that all December reports have been received. She met with bank representatives to determine how best to close and move the Compost Bin accounts. She recommended that the savings and compost bin accounts be merged into one and Kaleen suggested naming it "Foundation Reserve Account". It will have a higher money market rate and Kaleen asked that Linda confirm the account type is federally insured.

MOTION: Talen/Cottingham. Passed unanimously.

4. Michelle's Activity Report

Michelle has been assisting with recruitment for the 2014 class. The deadline was extended to January 24 and two orientations added. New posters with added dates were distributed to Board members. She is developing a CE on Seeds and Seed Catalogs scheduled for January 22. The speaker is Master Gardener Tom Neitzel, and Toni Ghazal is going to be leading an activity. More people are needed to lead the round table discussions. It was discussed to ask Dave Mitman, founder and past president of the South Sound Seed Stewards, to present at the February Membership meeting. Cori will contact him and notify Devi.

5. Program Update: Cori

Cori is preparing for the February 4th MG Cluster meeting. The site is always Lewis County and Thurston County is providing set up/snacks for this meeting. Cori is finishing the MRC/ MG Master Calendar and waiting on finalizing some workshops. The Recommitment form has been updated and will be sent out soon. The year end report is being completed. Six persons have volunteered for Mentors and training will be held 1/10. letter was received from the SPSCC scholarship winner thanking the Board. Julie will invite him to a future meeting to explain his education plans. Cori stated that Lucas Patzek, WSU Thurston County Extension Director, has offered to partner with the Foundation to bring in regional speakers for CE's.

6. Old Business

-Donation Policy and Reformat: Cori has an e-copy of the Handbook for Devi to use when formatting the document. The official version should be provided to the Secretary when updated. It was suggested that a footer should be added to reflect the date of revision.

- Website Update: Toni is scheduling a new committee meeting to include Linda Talen, Andi Taylor, BJ Matthews, Michelle, Cori and Lisa Gitelman. The objective is to train them to create/update website banners, add photos and change blog content. Roy Emery has provided great technical support and the Board wants to ensure we have the ability to update content including graphics, effectively. Toni will let Roy know how the committee will coordinate with him.

- Meeting Dates: Devi is working to confirm the February 25th meeting location. We need to ensure there is time for set-up and reservations begin at 4 or 4:30 p.m.

7. New Business

-Julie asked that a Review of Position Descriptions for Board members be held next meeting when a full Board might be available. She will have copies of the appropriate Handbook descriptions available for discussion.

- Committee Reports: Toni has been reviewing sites for the Bloomin' Bingo in September. She recommended a consideration of the Knights of Columbus Hall in Lacey on a Friday night. The cost is less for a non-profit and a remodel is currently underway. Toni was asked to verify is adequate parking and that Marianne Binetti can participate before committing to the space.

- -Julie will ask that the Plant Sale committee provide an update at the February 12th meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Bev Postman, Secretary