



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 2014

The June 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 5:39 pm.

Board Members Present:

Julie Sandberg, President
Kaleen Cottingham, Vice President
Linda Talen, Treasurer
Sandy Atkinson, State Representative
Bev Postman, Secretary
Toni Ghazal, Past President

Others Present:

Cori Carlton, Program Manager
Michelle Kozminski, Americorps Intern
Roy Emory

The published agenda was covered as follows:

1. Minutes of May 14 Board Meeting

Minutes from May meeting were approved.

MOTION: Cottingham/Atkinson

2. Treasurer's Report

- The foundation's assets are \$94,504.95
- A bad check from the plant sale for \$210 was made good by credit card.
- It was decided to shut down the hot spot we used for the plant sale.
- There are \$69 in charges for program updates used by the treasurer in Quickbooks.
- It was decided that tool expenditure and profits will be reported as a subheading under Retail as clothing and handicrafts are.

Treasurer's Report is approved.

MOTION: Postman/Cottingham

3. State Foundation Rep Report

-Our candidate for the Van Bobbit scholarship was not chosen by the state MG Foundation, but is still eligible for our \$250 scholarship. The board will send a letter to the applicant and ask her to furnish proof of enrollment and then a check will be mailed to her. There is no stipulation that it must be used for tuition costs.

-We discussed our contribution of raffle items to the state conference, which are usually supplied by the handicraft committee. Sandy will contact Penny Locke to request items for the raffle.

-It was decided that we would submit an article to Seeds of Thought for the state MG newsletter. The article is due by July 1st. Bev Postman will interview Cindy Cartwright about the Children's Garden for the article and Cori will furnish pictures. A deadline of June 25th to complete the article and have it to Julie Sandberg for editing was agreed on. We will also submit Bingo poster for publication in newsletter.

-The board discussed the prospect of our county hosting a state master gardener conference in 2016 or 2017. It is a rotating responsibility and we have not hosted since 2004. We have a challenge in that Olympia has no convention center like some of the other host cities. The last time we hosted, Evergreen was used for meetings but it's far from hotels and restaurants. The target amount for attendance is 300 people. Income from the event is split between the host city and the state organization, but sometimes the host city loses money and if we took it on, it would divert resources from our other fundraisers and events. Julie will look at hosting responsibilities and it will be discussion point in the future.

-Virginia Ferguson, Conference chair will attend our June membership meeting to promote attendance at the Conference.

4. Committee Reports

-Plant sale debrief: Linda Talen reported net income from the plant sale of \$14,761.20

-Roy Emory, who has been our webmaster on the foundation website for the past few years, attended the board meeting to voice his concerns about the board's decision to hire a professional web designer to make changes to the web site. The Board expressed concern that only Roy currently had access to the website, and if he was unable to access it for reasons of illness or absence, we would be in difficulty. It was explained that the Board was seeking to add more flexibility to the running of the site to ensure that multiple people would have clearer roles and responsibilities for the mechanics of the MGFTC website. Roy was asked to provide a list of tasks including maintenance that he performs as Webmaster so the Board could better understand the various responsibilities that position needs to perform. There is a need to better define the role of Webmaster as well as a Website Committee.

-Retail: Roberta is stepping down as clothing chairperson and Kerry Norem has agreed to do both clothing and tools. Carla Salp will help out. Roberta sold \$744 worth of clothing at last day of MG class. Tools will be sold at both June and Oct. membership meetings and at the state convention and we'll see how they do. Handicrafts brought in \$1147 at the plant sale.

-Bingo: Committee met a couple weeks ago. They've decided not to buy any more gloves to give away, but instead will give people their choice of plants in 4" pots. There will be an ad in Friday Flash for more volunteers. Event will be held at Columbia Hall in Lacey, at the corner of Kenwood and Martin Way. The capacity of the hall is 250-300 people. Desserts will be donated and attendees will receive one dessert per ticket. The bingo group will meet in advance at the hall to map out where things are going and who's stationed where. It was

decided to not do special bingo cards but instead to have silent raffles in bundles of five tickets.

-Publicity: Foundation brochure edits are being done and Nancy Mills is arranging for 500 to be printed by WSU.

5. Program Reports

Michelle did a lettuce workshop in May. Attendees were pleased with the “make and take” activity. She will be doing a raised bed workshop on Saturday, June 21 at the clinic bldg.

Cori: The Dirtworks entry sign was removed by workers and this has caused some confusion for workshop attendees.

-Cori attended a cluster meeting with reps from other MG groups in surrounding counties and there was much talk about the different plant sales. Lewis County rented carts from Walmart for their plant sale, which was at the Expo Center.

-State Fair involvement of MG groups: Lewis County mgs are not staffing a booth at the fair because they would have to pay for a booth and all volunteers would have to buy tickets.

-Cori learned about software program used by Lewis Co. called Volunteer Schedule Pro. It enables volunteers to sign up and get reminders for volunteer duties. It's a cloud-based system that costs \$300. There is a 3 month free trial opportunity to test it out which Cori will sign up for.

-MG training is completed and the last outing was to a private garden near Lael's nursery. There will be a July 25th CE opportunity for all mg's at Dolores Cavanagh's garden in Elma which will be posted in Friday Flash.

-Children's garden training was held; all volunteers who work with children must take this training to learn what behaviors are acceptable when working with minors.

-Cori will be gone two days this month for a conference in Ellensburg.

-MRC applications and promotions are starting soon.

-The National Association of Environmental Educators is offering a free month-long online class in Environmental Education/ Technology.

-Cori will be on vacation from June 23-29.

-Next Membership meeting is at June 17th; doors open at 6:30 and beverages and cookies will be served. There will be a briefing for members on the Plant Sale, followed by a short address by Virginia Ferguson on the fall State Master Gardener Conference in Tacoma, then Heather Sundean and Michaela Winkley from Olympia Food Bank will make a presentation.

6. New Business

-Strategic Planning Meeting: Julie is exploring dates in August or Sept. 22.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Bev Postman, Secretary