



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 12th, 2014

The November 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 5:35 pm.

Board Members Present:

Julie Sandberg, President

Linda Talen, Treasurer

Bev Postman, Secretary

Devi Watson, Member At Large

Kaleen Cottingham, Vice President

Sandy Atkinson, State Representative

Others Present:

Cori Carlton, Program Manager

Suzannah Klaniecki, Americorps Volunteer

Nancy Mills, Publicity Committee

Kerry Norem, Retail Sales

The published agenda was covered as follows:

1. Minutes of October Board Meeting were approved as amended.

MOTION: Atkinson/Cottingham

2. Treasurer's Report/Linda Talen

Year to Date Expenses: \$29,561.66

Year to Date Revenue: \$27,516.68

Total Assets: \$87,305.43

-Fred Meyer Rewards Program: In an effort to beef up our participation in the Rewards program, Kaleen suggested putting precise signup instructions on Friday Flash. It was also decided that Linda would print up cards with the Rewards program logo and signup instructions to be handed out at membership meetings.

-Linda reported that the water bills for Dirtworks have increased due to the installation of new water meters; bills averaged \$900 for the last two months of summer. There is a charge of \$13.76 for sporadic water use that Cori will call and discontinue as we have no need for it during winter months.

-Linda would like to purchase a newer laptop for bookkeeping duties as hers is a 2007 model. She will investigate prices and report back to board at November budget meeting.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

MOTION: Postman/Cottingham

3. State Foundation Report/Sandy Atkinson

-Sandy reported that new officers were elected to state board and she is looking forward to more complete financial reporting and more involvement by state reps. She reported that no seed money

for future conferences is available to future host sites unless the previous year's conference is profitable. Profitability is largely determined by corporate contributions.

2014 State Education Conference in Tacoma/ Recap

Attendance – 352 (315 from the westside -110 from Pierce County) and 37 from the eastside).

Marketplace – only 5 counties participated. Total sales were \$ 11,222.75. The Silent Auction netted \$6500 which went to the host county.

Financial Recap

Sponsor cash donations = \$16, 150

Net Profit \$16, 150.08

Room guarantee was not met, due to last minute cancellations

Gross food costs exceeded \$40,000

Profit Split : \$10,575.04 to Pierce County; \$5, 575.05 to the State Foundation

Silent Auction generated income of \$ \$6560 for Pierce County.

Raffle generated \$2560 income for MGFWS operating costs. Estimated value of items donated was \$ 6400

Pierce County used PayPal to process Credit card transactions. The fee came out to be 3.08%. Credit cards accounted for 61.3% of payments for registration and tours.

-A revised Master Gardener Program Handbook with minor changes is available on the WSU website, mastergardener.wsu.edu

-A new training manual may be ready by 2016.

-WA Dept of Natural Resources has expressed interest in preparing online training in Urban Forestry and making it available to MGs.

-Election of Board Members:

President: George Frey of Pierce County; Secretary: John Strong of Yakima County; Treasurer: Margaret Morris of Yakima County (current treasurer); VP Metro Region: Sharon Ballard of Pierce County. The VP for our geographic area (Southwest) is MaryJo Christensen of Lewis County.

-Sandy also reported some confusion about the \$250 Von Bobbit scholarship awarded by the board to McKenzi Taylor for attendance at Centralia College. Sandy will call the registrar's office to confirm her enrollment.

-Linda Talen will call SPSCC to confirm that 2013 scholarship awards were received and that MGFTC is not funding anymore scholarships due to the termination of the horticulture program.

5. Program Report/Cori

-Cori shared that King County Master Gardener Foundation is willing to share some of their asset investment information with our group.

-Cori has done four pre-orientation sessions for 2015 Master Gardener training and has four remaining sessions scheduled. The target goal for the program is 30 people, presently 11 people have signed up.

-Cori went over preparations for the Dec.13th Holiday Party and membership meeting. It is a potluck and gift exchange. Board members will present 2014 accomplishments, new vision and mission statements, and goals for 2015.

6. Discussion 2015 Board Goals

We reviewed the results of our 2014 MGFTC foundation member survey and discussed whether 2015 Board Goals were in line with member comments. Goals were edited as follows:

2015 ANNUAL GOALS

1. Improve and increase exposure for the Foundation; increase member participation in Program outreach events.
2. Increase revenue through fundraising: participation in one additional Community Garden or Farmer's Market fundraising activity in Thurston County to sell handicrafts, retail items and promote MGFTC events; coordinate fundraising with the Master Recycler/Composter Swap Committee; publicize the Fred Meyer Rewards Program to improve this opportunity for a fundraiser.
3. Add two membership meetings during the next year and hold one membership meeting in a Display garden;
4. Increase the number of Foundation member benefits with an event such as: "Tea in the Garden" or "Gardening through the Seasons" utilizing member gardens;
5. Recruit participants for leadership positions and implement a Nominating Committee;
6. Increase membership by sponsoring interns as Foundation members during their training year.
7. Develop an investment strategy to diversify assets.
8. Target scholarship foundation funds for MG/MRC participants.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Bev Postman, Secretary