



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

Board Meeting Minutes, May 10, 2017

Present: Board Members Cindy Hoover, President, Charley Barron, President-elect, Bev Bartlett, Vice-president, Kerry Norem, Treasurer, Pam Roberts, Secretary, Sandy Atkinson, State Representative, and Candace Jacobs, Member-at-Large. Also, present: Cori Carlton, Program Coordinator, Midge Miller Price, Co-chair, Plant Sale.

5:30 p.m. **Call to Order**

Board Reports

Minutes

Minutes of the April 12, 2017 meeting were presented. Typos and corrections were made, and Charley moved to accept them as corrected. Sandy seconded, and minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Kerry presented the monthly report as of April 30, 2017:

YTD Income:	\$ 4,003.26
YTD Expenses:	\$ 6,925.35
Current Assets:	\$16,016.26

Investments income YTD: \$2342.00

Motion to Approve: Pam Second: Bev, report Approved

State Foundation Rep Report

Sandy provided an update on the Van Bobbitt Scholarship. State Foundation Website had been inaccurate, and she intervened so that it could be corrected. Based on the information on the website, Sandy forwarded introductory letters to schools in Thurston County, referring interested parties to state website and included a scholarship application cover sheet which includes our address for submission to the County.

Sometime after this, Sandy encountered challenges for follow-up. She was told that there is to be no state scholarship this year. Meanwhile, she received an application from a Thurston County student who plans to attend TESC next year. The scholarship is usually awarded at State Conference in September with notification given over summer.

Board members agreed that Thurston County should support the applicant. He seems to be qualified. Copies of his application were provided to Cindy and Charley for review. Members agreed that, following the member review of the application, we will submit it to the State organization with strong letter, including a copy of the website page to support what we did.

Sandy will notify applicant we have received applicant and will review. This item was TABLED until June meeting of this Board

Vice-President – Task List

Bev presented an updated task list, which members reviewed and amended. Cori will add her list to Bev. Sandy submitted her State Rep task list to Bev for addition to the overall task list.

Member-At-Large

Candace reported that the June membership meeting speakers are Lowell & Sue Cordas to talk about Garden Tool Choices and Maintenance.

Candace has also spoken to Sue Goetz, from Gig Harbor, about a possible future program. Her speaking fee is \$300 fee plus mileage. She is well-known and regarded as a speaker, and would attract a good audience. Possible future speaking dates will be discussed.

President-Elect

Finance Committee formation: Charley announced that he has recruited a third finance committee member, Jerry Stayton (retired CPA). So far, the committee membership includes Charley, Cindy, Kerry, and Jerry.

Kay Zambone and Kaleen Cottingham both volunteered to help in some capacity following his announcement at the last membership meeting.

Nomination for MG of year is being developed and will be submitted to the State organization.

President

Publicity for plant sale

Cindy announced that the following organizations have been contacted:

- Olympian, has it in – may send photographer
- Nisqually Valley News
- Flower Clubs organization
- Senior News

Cindy got the publicity notebook, including potential contacts on a stick, and asked for help with further publicity. Pam will call Joan Reitzwood about posters, and Gail Newsom about contacts she has already made. She will follow up on the contact list contained in the notebook. Cori will buy Facebook Ad. Cori emphasized that the Plant Sale is the biggest financial resource that the Foundation has to support the program, and without a successful plant sale, there is no MG program in Thurston County.

Follow-up: The publicity for the Plant Sale MUST begin earlier next year. Bev has this timing in the task list she is preparing.

Farmers Market Shed update – Cori and Cindy met with Dan Britton, who has submitted a plan drawing that may be problematic for power.

Members asked that Dan be asked to develop and submit another sample with the building next to shed and then submit both versions to City. Cindy will get back to him with this suggestion. The City will need professional blueprint drawings, so CAD drawings need to be developed. Charley suggested that they take the hand-drawn plans to Finline Design for CAD drawing.

Access to Membership form – Cindy announced that a “Join” button has been added to the Website.

Update from Edward Jones

Overall 3.39% YTD income after his fees. (1.08%/year)

35% in Mutual Fund Stocks 65% in Bonds

Committee Reports (committees that do not appear below did not have a report)

Plant Sale

Midge Price was present and reported that the Plant Sale is fully staffed!

Plants are not as advanced this year due to the wet weather. Some will have to be cheaper because of that, so the profit might be a little lower this year. Otherwise, in good shape. As the sale day goes on, plants are repriced by Bob Findlay. We don't have to sell out the inventory as some organizations do, because we can hold plants over for a year so they look better and we can make money on them next year. (we have the luxury of space). We have power and a back-up generator.

Cori working with city folks for parking issues.

Meagan and Midge just recommitted as co-chairs for next year. They will take turns coming to Board meetings each month.

Publicity, Gail Newsome home with an injury, and is emailing everyone.

Kerry reported that she and Julie went to King County plant sale. Since sales tax is not charged, due to the non-profit status of the event, they were asking each buyer if they would like to donate sales tax to MG Foundation. Kerry suggested we do the same.

Kerry added that she can secure a hot spot and merchant services. Will try to do this on Friday night before the plant sale. Can do Donate button with merchant services. Hot spot \$18 through Mobile One. \$120 per year for service up to 5 users. Sprint network.

Follow-up: June meeting – do presentation on this

Cashier training. Buttons for tools and handicrafts. Set up for 5/17.

Candace made a motion that we explore ability to get sales tax donation and implement if possible. Pam Second. Passed

“you are not being charged sales tax today. Would you like to donate the amount you would have paid to the MG Foundation?”

King County sale used tablets. They also had outside vendors. Mg’s tallied. Pierce County only does vendor sales. (20% to MG)

Bev – task list – how far out ahead of plant sale do we need to advertise?
Arrange with Ron Jones (City) for over street downtown. (9 months ahead)

Blooming Bingo:

Bev reported for Toni Ghazal: We have three or four volunteers for prize acquisition at this point and our next bingo meeting is scheduled for May 25th. Toni will be stepping down after this year.

Tools and Clothing:

Bev reported for Joan Reitzwood

Tools and Clothing seem to be going well. At the April MGFTC meeting I had \$141 in sales: \$106 tools and \$35 clothing. Tools are stocked for the near future. She will be connecting with Kerry to see how/what I will do to make a clothing order to cover requested items by the 2017 class for items they’re requesting that I can’t currently cover. ***Sent a second e-mail asking about commitment for next year.*

Handicrafts:

Bev reported that Kay Zambone will not continue as Chair next year

Retail - Joan Reitzwood will continue as Chair next year

Program Report

Cori provided the following information:

- MG training-9 classes already complete, 4 left. Last class and graduation is June 9th at the Lacey Community Center.
- MRC new volunteer training information will be posted on our website after June 1st. Training will take place on Tuesday evenings and some Saturday mornings in late September-October.
- We are moving forward with Children’s Garden planning. All beds have been planted. Weekly watering and weeding and some harvesting will continue until the first class. The first Children’s Garden class will begin on July 18th and run through August 22nd.
- WSU Extension of Thurston County office will have a Civil Rights audit in the end of May. Between now and then Cori is heavily involved in prepping for this review.
- Next MG Cluster Meeting is on June 8th from 10am to 1pm at Lewis County Extension office. We will carpool to Chehalis from the Thurston County Extension office at 9am.
- Our busy outreach event season continues.

New Business

Conflict of Interest

Question was asked whether forms should be required for Committee Chairs. Following discussion about who should sign forms, it was determined that only Board members will be required, and others will be determined on a case-by-case basis after that

Home Depot Grant Proposal plus another

CLP Committee has requested that the Board submit a grant request from Home Depot to finance various repairs at Closed Loop garden in the amount of \$8000. These include replacing the Kiosk and the tool shed (\$2500) as well as benches, Remaining money in CLP budget is \$2300. \$3500 would be requested from Home Depot.

Follow-up: Cori will review to be sure no conflicts. Need to involve WARC staff (Waste and Recovery Center) and get their buy-off. No deadline.

Opportunity:

Cindy explained that she has been informed of a \$500 grant available to enhance the lives of women. Olympia Union Gospel Mission (OUGM) supports Genesis Acres, a women's' recovery center. The center has a generous garden space. Cindy proposed that the Foundation support an effort to build the garden space and train residents of Genesis Acres to garden. Suggestion was made that OUGM partner with GRuB. Another possibility would be to make it an Intern project. Cori cautioned that we need to be sure criteria are appropriate for goals of the program. Mindy Crump, of the OUGM is involved. This is an attractive partnership with a community group.

Follow-up: Bring this idea back in September as a potential goal for the MG Program.

Upcoming: June 14 - Board Meeting, June 20 - Membership Meeting, 6:30 pm,

Potential Donation:

Bev stated that a gentleman in this year's MG class wants to donate his salary to MGFTC.. Members asked that a meeting with Cori and Bev be arranged so that this offer can be formalized.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted,

Pamela E. Roberts
Secretary

Upcoming: