



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

Board Meeting Minutes, September 13, 2017

Call to Order: 5:35 p.m.

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

Plant Sale - Midge Price

Since Midge was present, Cindy asked her to discuss her issues first:

Midge stated that the endless break-in problems; dog poop; syringes have created a big, ongoing problem.

A long-term strategy would be to move the garden to George Cowan's place. George has written into his will that he will donate his property to the Foundation on his death.

Midge and other members of the Plant Sale Committee visited George at his home and discussed moving the garden. He expressed excitement about the concept. George wants his property to become a "place" for MG's. There would be many details to work out, including insurance, city, etc. The positive aspects of this include:

- Land available; water; power; outbuildings;
- low-crime area.
- No known homeless population.
- No foot traffic.
- Would have to do deer fencing.

Next step is for appropriate individuals to go out and visit the property. Plant sale area is a Foundation function. We would have to be sure we should have all ducks in a row before this could take place.

Current situation at the Dirt Works nursery:

The chain link fence has been cut through 9 different places.

Cori, called Summit Fence Company and met with them at Dirt Works –They walked the perimeter, made a map, and will submit a bid. Adding new fence on uphill side of driveway is an option. Iron fence is an option that is much more expensive.

Will continue discussion after quotes come back.

The Fence people can reinforce gates so the prowlers can't take them out again.

Cori discussed MOU progress/lack of progress, which has been delayed due to issues of responsibility on the City of Olympia side. She will keep the Board informed as to what we can do (write a letter?)

Fall Plant Sale will be held on the 23rd of September.

Board Reports

Minutes of the August 9, 2017 board meeting were reviewed. Pam thanked Candace for producing minutes in her absence. Minutes were corrected to add Bev in attendance.

Motion was made by Charley and seconded by Bev and carried to approve the minutes as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

Kerry presented the monthly report as of August 31, 2017

She reported that 102 tickets to Bloomin' Bingo have been sold so far, with more to go (119 last year). \$2175 has been collected.

YTD Income:	\$28,680.61
YTD Expenses:	\$21,774.41
Current Assets:	\$25,844.55

Kerry commented that purchase of an iPad and printer are included in expenses. (small equipment)

Roy (website) wants to restart work on "donation page" for the website. He needs to set up PayPal for accepting donations. Members noted that language for this has already been approved. Kerry will send Board members a copy of the website for review.

Motion was made by Charley and seconded by Candace to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

State Foundation Rep -

Cindy reported for Sandy

Sandy needs items to take to the State Conference for their fund-raising auction. She has been provided a watering can, 3 plants, and some additional items, and will be advised to purchase additional items if she feels the need. Alex Chapel has been invited to receive his VanBobbitt award in person. He has changed his education plan, and the State Board has approved the change. He has been unresponsive regarding attendance at the meeting. He needs to get his student ID number to the State Organization.

Vice President – Task List, budget process

Task List: Members provided input regarding an update of task list. Bev will email task for September to Linda Talen regarding promotions.

Budget process: Bev provided a copy of her Memo to anyone who has a budget item. Also, a letter from Cindy was distributed for reading later.

Member-At-Large

Candace provided an update on awards banquet

City PicNics has been contracted for the banquet to be held at 6 p.m. at Heritage Hall - Set-up starts at 4:30 p.m. Menu includes Turkey Dinner with desert included.

Categories for Board determined awards include:

- Fund-raising
- Advocacy
- Service
- Honorary MG

Board members will discuss specific individual nominations at next Board meeting, after Cori has solicited nominations from the membership.

Speakers for next year: Good speaker potentials, but she needs dates to finalize bookings. Meanwhile, she is gathering speaker names and suggestions.

Diane Stanger has agreed to stay on as Membership Chair

President-Elect

Finance Committee:

Charley reported that records retention and custody process has begun. The Finance Committee is doing due diligence starting now. The Committee had a meeting and went through all records back to 2007. They are now temporarily stored in Roberts' Shop at 2112 Aspinwall Road NW, Olympia. They also created a permanent records box. Gerry and Charley will put a retention checklist together for future reference.

Charley suggested renting a storage locker right away. This would facilitate relocating all Foundation items in anticipation of moving the Extension Office. Cindy is asking for a square footage need from Handicrafts and retail clothing committees especially. She should have information for October meeting, or sooner, if information is available,

Our nominee for MG of the year, Ralph, was not going to the convention. Need to know if he won or not. If he won, we can figure out when the award will be announced. If not, we'll honor him locally.

Committee Reports (Committees that did not submit reports are not listed.)

Membership - Diane Stanger has reported we have 152 members now

Program Report

On September 12th the Master Recycler Composter Outreach Specialist I position will close. This is the part-time help position that Solid Waste will be funding.

September 12th is also the deadline for applications to be submitted for the Master Recycler Composter volunteer training. The training will run from September 19th through October 24th.

This weekend will be the last of our outreach booths for the season will be at Tenino and Yelm Farmers Markets.

Garden Committee retreat is scheduled for Thurs. September 21st from 9am to Noon at the Extension office. We will review garden operations/policies, what worked/didn't work in 2017, goal setting for 2018, and budget numbers for 2017/2018.

Next MG Cluster meeting is October 12th from 10am to 1pm @ Lewis County Extension office. Discussion topics include: advertising/social media, recap of year successes/improvements, workshop topics hits/misses, workshops using demo gardens, ways to retain MG's, comments/feedback on State Conference.

Old Business

Member Survey

Board members have all submitted their test surveys, and found it easy to complete as presented. They determined that it should be sent out asap to all members.

New Business

Approval of Tuition for Non-Profit Class on Volunteers

Pam has volunteered to sit in on an on-line program regarding volunteerism. She has chosen to get access to recordings of all three sessions after they have been presented. The cost is \$30.

Motion was made by Bev to reimburse Pam for expenses in the amount of \$30. Seconded by Candace and passed.

Spring Greening Contract

Westwood Baptist Church had changed their contract form with language that Cori was concerned would not be acceptable to WSU. Bev spoke to the church administrator and had contract language changed to more acceptable language. Language was discussed and agreed to with changes. Contract will be submitted to WSU for approval.

Members discussed how we would handle the eventuality of WSU turning down the contract. Could the Foundation sign it? What about liability issues? Will discuss after we hear from WSU.

Charley suggested that, as a back-up plan, we could contract with the Salvation Army to use its facility on Fourth Avenue.

Follow-up: Further discussion at the next meeting.

Intern Project – Grant Seeking/Writing

Cori stated that an intern who is an experienced grant writer wants to do her project using her grant writing skills.

Follow-up: The Foundation Goal-setting meeting in October would be an appropriate venue to discuss possibilities. Cori will invite her to Goal-setting meeting.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Oct. 11 – Board Meeting	Oct. 18 – Goal Setting Retreat/Potluck 4:30 p.,.
Nov. 8 – Board Meeting (change time?)	Nov. 16 – Awards Dinner, Fairgrounds
Nov. 18 – Budget Meeting, 9 a.m., Cindy's home	
Dec. 6 – Board Meeting	Dec. 9 (Sat) – Annual Meeting, 12 noon
7:55 Adjourn	

Submitted,

Pamela E. Roberts

Secretary