



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

Board Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2018

3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Olympia WA 98503

Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.

Present: Board Members, Charley Barron, President, Cindy Hoover, Past-president, Barbara Baker, Member-at-large, and Pam Roberts, Secretary.

Also present: Cori Carlton, Program Manager, and Donna Doerer, MG. Intern

Board Reports

Minutes – June 13, 2018 Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes as presented was made by Cindy, seconded by Barb, and passed.

Treasurer's Report- Since Kerry was not present, the report was DEFERRED until next meeting. Charley commented that he had viewed the Edward Jones account, and it is \$10,000 higher than last month, which indicates that Kerry had made the transfer of \$10,000 approved at the June meeting. The total investment account is now \$80,536.00 as of June 30.

Past President- Cindy reported that she is still seeking candidates for 2019 treasurer and president-elect. Members provided some suggestions for follow-up.

George Cowan (newly appointed State Representative Board member) will be at August 8 meeting at 4:30. He wants to go to State meeting in September and is asking about expense reimbursement. We have a \$900-line item in our budget to cover expenses for this position. We will match State of Washington per day rates.

Motion was made by Cindy, seconded by Barb, and approved:

That the Foundation will pay George's costs for mileage, registration, and room for State Master Gardener Conference.

Member-At-Large – Barb reported that the June 20 Membership meeting went well. The Health Department personnel were very helpful in Cori's absence.

Membership Picnic is next and will be held on August 16. At 5:30 p.m. She asked that the officers arrive at 4:30 to help set up. The Board will supply drinks (lemonade or tea or bottled water) She will bring paper towels, liquid soap, and hand sanitizer.

Follow-up: Cori will place a notice in Friday Flash.

Menu for the December Award meeting will be a pasta bar (w/gluten free available).

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

Plant Sale - Midge Price/Meagan Thorn

Fence repairs still on hold pending meeting with City of Olympia
Volunteers are available through police department to help with parking for next year's plant sale.

Handicrafts –Jeanie Zelasko

Needs new banner for 7/21 event. Old one has been lost.

Follow-up: Cori will order through WSU (1x8)

Bloomin' Bingo -Julie Sandberg

Planning meeting was held on Monday, July 9. The major purpose of the meeting was to begin gathering commitments for donations. Ralph Gross, Charley Barron, and Mary Smidt will be doing most of the solicitations. Julie is producing a revised donor list.

Room set-up will be different this year, with rectangular reserve tables in a row. Round tables will be open to walk-ins.

Due to a new Gambling Commission rule, tickets will need to be will-call. We can't mail them any longer. That will mean that extra help will be needed at the ticket tables.

We will be purchasing food for refreshments, not asking for donations.

Finance/Grants

Donna provided a handout with a focused list of grants possibilities and discussed details with the Board. She added that Bob Findley has volunteered to help review grant applications. Funders discussed included Squaxin Island Tribe, The Community Foundation, Northwest Horticultural Society, Birkenfeld Foundation, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation, and Heritage Bank.

Follow-up: Charley offered to meet with the Community Foundation representative along with Donna.

Donna asked for a copy of the Foundation's 2018 budget for inclusion in her applications.

Follow-up: Cori volunteered to provide that for her.

Donna thanked the Board for their time and left the room at 6:40 p.m.

Program Report

Cori provided the following report:

The last MG Cluster meeting was on Thursday, June 14th in Chehalis. Plant sale successes and challenges were shared along with discussions on volunteer recruitment and retention, Foundation insurance and outreach events.

Children's Garden has begun and will run through August 21st. At our first session we had 21 Master Gardener volunteers lead over 45 kids and chaperones in garden bed planting and harvesting activities. Over 52 pounds of fruits and veggies were harvested for the Thurston County Food Bank. We ended with a lesson on plant parts, puns, and garden fun. A very successful first day.

Extension office move update:

- Office bathrooms and floors are now complete.
- The unpacking process is slowly happening. Priority is removing all the contents from the temporary shipping container, so it can be removed before Fair.8
- Q & A clinic has re-opened and is open Tues. – Fri. from 9am to 1pm. Although the clinic is not completely set up and unpacked it is set up enough to reopen.

My priorities and upcoming projects:

- Unpacking and organizing our new office spaces and storage unit.
- Demo gardens and clinic operations.
- Office catch-up work including: re-hiring part-time assistant position, setting up online volunteer management system.
- Prepping for summer outreach events (Children’s Garden, Farmer’s Markets, Fair etc.) These will be limited so I can spend time on the other highlighted tasks above and focus on healing my knee injury that happened during the office move.

Cori stated that the WSU contract office is behind in its work due to staffing issues. In response to Cori’s request, motion as made by Barb, seconded by Cindy, and passed:

“That the Foundation sign the rental contract with the Salvation Army for the fall Master your Garden event and swap it out when WSU gets their work done.”

Follow-up: Charley will follow up with Salvation Army folks to confirm date. October 20, beginning at 7:30 – 5 p.m.

Old Business

Charley briefly reviewed -Board and Committee Tasks Lists. We are up to date for the year to date. Looking ahead at awards

Members commented that the donation button on the website still does not work.

Follow-up: Cindy will follow up with Roy and Kerry regarding donate button.

Follow-up: Charley will talk to Linda Talen regarding photo contest for next year’s plant sale poster.

Follow-up: Charley will contact Midge and Meagan regarding fall plant sale. Will there be one? When will it be scheduled?

August 8 meeting:

4:30 Board meeting

5:30 5-year goal setting meeting.

We will Invite all committee chairs.It also will be open to all members. -

Follow-up: – Pam will order pizza for the 5:30 meeting

Follow-up: Cori will place a notice in the FF and ask for RSVP

Follow-up: Cindy will send out electronic copy of 5-year goals and 2018 goals to Board members.

New Business

Barbara raised a concern regarding grants. She stated that, in her experience, the process will require direct and ongoing involvement by board members. Since Donna is doing this as her MG project, there may come a time when she wishes to hand responsibility off to others. Who will be sure all details are followed up on? This will require more discussion at a future meeting.

Charley commented that he had met with Commissioner Edwards at Salvation Army dinner. He said that Mr. Edward expressed his support of the MG organization and was very supportive re: 25th anniversary of Closed Loop Park.

7:30 Adjourn

Submitted,

Pamela E. Roberts
Secretary

Upcoming Meetings/Events

August 8: Board and Five-Year Goal Setting Meeting 4:30 p.m.

August 16: Picnic at Priest Point Park Rose Garden

September 13: Bloomin Bingo

September 19: Board Meeting

September 26-29: State AEC Conference , Wenatchee