



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County Board Meeting Minutes: August 12, 2015

The meeting was held at WSU Thurston County Extension and called to order by Julie at 5:45pm.

Present: Board members Julie Sandberg, president; Cindy Hoover, president-elect; Linda Talen, treasurer; Kaleen Cottingham, vice president; Devi Watson, member-at-large; and Cindy Morana, secretary. Also present were Cori Carlton, program manager and Suzannah Klaniecki, AmeriCorps volunteer. Bloomin' Bingo chairperson Toni Ghazal and Master Gardener interns George Cowan and Charley Barron joined the meeting as well.

1. Minutes. Cindy H moved adoption of the July board minutes. Kaleen seconded. The minutes were adopted.

2. Treasurer's Report.

YTD Income \$24,240.23 YTD Expenses \$19,201.52 Current Assets \$85,763.21

The board discussed location of accounts and assets and reviewed coding of some items. Kaleen moved to accept the treasurer's report, Cindy H seconded. The report was accepted.

3. State Foundation Report. Sandy emailed her report (appended below). Please note the state conference will be September 17-19 in Vancouver. Several board members plan to attend.

4. Property proposal. George Cowan described his proposed donation of a 4.77 acre property ("Cowan Gardens") on Littlerock Road across from Black Hills High School. The property includes several buildings and two wells and is inside the Tumwater growth boundary. The assessment is \$148,950 land, \$92,200 buildings, and carries \$3518 in annual taxes at this time. In response to questions, George noted his original intent to have the property transfer upon his demise, but he is also considering a lifetime tenancy. In response to a question whether the bequest would require the property to stay in the care of MGFTC, George said that he has no concern for what use the property will be put once he is passed. He is willing to work with us to ensure we can maintain the property upon transfer. George advised that he would prefer a decision soon, with his attorney prepared to wrap up the paperwork.

After George departed the meeting, the board discussed questions to be pursued: Can we own property under the bylaws and articles of incorporation? Do we want to become property owners? Could the site become an alternate garden for MGs, or, perhaps donated to the city or county or high school with the proviso that it be a garden site?

As our next steps, Cori will contact WSU to discuss the proposal. Several board members, including Linda, Cindy H, and Kaleen, will plan to visit the property; Julie will coordinate a date.

5. September board meeting date was moved from September 9 to September 23 to accommodate members' schedules.

6. Committee Reports.

- A. Publicity.** Rita Gallerani has agreed to chair the publicity committee.
- B. Website.** Bev is recruiting individuals to write articles for the website.

C. Bloomin' Bingo. Toni advised that ticket sales have been slow, but they hope to bring in more community members in addition to current MGs. Toni still needs 4 or 5 volunteers to help at the event. Prizes and desserts are in and everything is a go.

D. Nominations. Candidates have come forward with interest in the vice president and treasurer-elect positions. Sandy may seek a second term as state rep.

7. Program Report.

A. Suzannah gave her final report, styled as "The Year of Big Fruits." She noted many impressive accomplishments, including trainings, workshops, and a variety of special projects. The board thanked Suzannah for her hard work and solid accomplishments.

B. Cori is currently focusing on outreach events, in addition to a variety of activities in support of the programs and office operations. She is also moving forward with SPSCC on a joint program for MGs and MRCs on Saturday, April 2, alongside a community CE class. Topics are gardening, recycling and composting and the repurposing of items. Cori is reviewing MRC mission and goals with County representatives. She is gathering a small advisory group to develop priorities and to give guidance on working smart in the absence of an AmeriCorps member. Nine persons have been accepted into this year's MRC training class so far.

8. MOA with WSU and the Charter with the state foundation are completed and signed. Julie will send the final documents to Roy Emory to post on the website.

9. Fundraising. When and how do we want to take advantage of opportunities, such as the Limeberry and Amazon Smile programs previously discussed? Julie asked Kaleen to review and bring back to the board the work she's prepared on fundraising and sponsorship guidelines.

10. Policies, Procedures and Bylaws. Updates regarding terms of office are on hold. Devi continues to work on sectioning the policies and procedures document for website posting.

11. Speaker's List. Devi distributed a list of past speakers alongside ideas for upcoming speakers. She would like our feedback on these ideas.

12. Investment Policy. Our current policy is reflected on page 2 of the Financial Policy section of the policies and procedures. We need to work toward a strategy on percentages to assign to liquid or long-term assets, as well as appropriate risk levels. We should also investigate the formation of an endowment. Julie spoke with the Treasurer of King County MGs, who recently wrote their own investment policy, to gather information. Julie and Kaleen will do some additional research. In addition, Linda will check with Heritage Bank to ascertain whether we can accumulate interest on our checking account.

15. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm. Our next meeting is set for September 23.

Submitted by Cindy Morana, Secretary
August 21, 2015

State Representative Report for 08/12/2015 Meeting

Raffle for 2015 Conference – on 8-7-2015 I sent the following list of MGFTC contributions to Fran Hammond of Clark County:

Recycled blue jean apron & pot holder - value \$30

Large cement leaf - value \$40

Garden Quilt kit - value \$60

Hypertufa planter with plants - value \$25

Fairy Garden planter with plants - value \$25

I plan to deliver the items to the Conference site, but Cindy Hoover has volunteered to help.

Survey of counties re Fundraising & Insurance

On 7-29-2015 I sent a report to the State President, George Frey about Thurston County.

On 8-3-2015 MGFWS President George Frey sent a compilation of the data submitted (**see attached**)

Unfortunately, only 12 counties responded – notable non participants were Clark, King, Lewis, Pacific-Grays Harbor, Mason & Spokane. Nevertheless, I think the report provides some interesting information about fundraising.

MGFWS BOARD CALENDAR for the remainder of 2015

09-17-2015 State Board meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver

9/17-9/19 State Education Conference in Vancouver, WA

10-23-2015 Pierce County tentative host for the State Board meeting

Sandy Atkinson

State Rep

8-11-15