



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2014

The December 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 5:39 pm.

Board Members Present:

Julie Sandberg, President
Linda Talen, Treasurer
Bev Postman, Secretary
Toni Ghazal, Past President

Others Present:

Cori Carlton, Program Manager
Suzannah Klaniecki, Americorps Volunteer
Cindy Morana, MRC Secretary Nominee

The published agenda was covered as follows:

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

MOTION: Ghazal/Talen

2. Treasurer's Report/Linda Talen

Year to Date Expenses: \$32,412.06

Year to Date Revenue: \$28,289.02

Total Assets: \$85,224.87

-Linda was queried as to the amount the foundation's balance has dropped since December 2013. At that time, we had assets of \$86,350.41. Our present balance, \$85,224.87, does not take into account several outstanding bills amounting to approximately \$2500: paper and copy costs, the cost of the November awards banquet.

-It was decided that the updated reimbursement policy needs to be put into the policies and procedures section of the foundation handbook which is posted online. This requires that all reimbursements be submitted in the year purchases were made. The same statement should be added to the Reimbursement Request form shown in the Policies/Procedures as Appendix A.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

MOTION: Postman/Ghazal

3. Committee Reports

-**Website/Bev Postman** reported that the "members only" section has been removed from the website, and all the current board notes from the last year have been posted. She and Roy are working on redesigning the website: getting rid of the slideshow feature and being able to post more current events on the homepage. The website committee will be working on this in 2015.

Bingo/Toni Ghazal: The proposed date for 2015 Bingo is August 27th. Toni will check with Marianne Binetti to confirm her availability. The event will be held at the Lacey Community Center.

Excess plants will be color-coded and sold for half-price at the end of the event.

4. Program Report/Cori

-17 applicants have been accepted for 2015 master gardener training so far. Cori has two more pre-orientations to do before the deadline.

-Suzannah is planning on teaching 3 workshops in the coming year: Ferns, Small Scale or Apartment Gardening and Carnivorous Plants.

-Suzannah is also working on creating a “Little Library” at Closed Loop to emphasize recycling/waste reduction.

-Cluster Meeting: Cori reported that the agenda for the December Cluster Meeting was on foundations and their related activities. In the future, a portion of each meeting will be devoted to this topic. Cori got copies of the bylaws from other foundations. She also got some information on the investment strategies of other foundations. In the counties that have foundation websites, the target audience was both members and the public. A version of the Friday Flash is produced by these counties in addition to some of them having a website.

-Cluster group reps shared successful fundraisers. Some of these included garden tours, selling peony tubers or dahlia bulbs, and selling mason bee “houses.” The sale of peony tubers netted one foundation \$7500.

-Cori shared some requests she’s received from community groups for MG or MRC partnerships. These include landscaping planning for Safeplace, and gardening/raised bed planning for both Garfield and Hansen elementary schools. Cori will put out a list of projects in January.

-There will be a meeting in the coming year of various community gardening educators to discuss planning and coordination of efforts. This will include master gardeners and master recycler-composters, representatives from GRuB, Ecology, and SPSCC.

-Cori was able to try out different software programs for managing volunteer network data and is interested in exploring that further.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Bev Postman, Secretary

12-26-14, rev. 1-5-15 cam
Approved by Board 1-14-15