



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County Board Meeting Minutes: April 14, 2015

The April meeting was held at the WSU Thurston County Extension Office and called to order by Kaleen Cottingham at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Board members Kaleen Cottingham, vice president; Sandy Atkinson, state representative; Linda Talen, treasurer; and Cindy Morana, secretary. Also present were Cori Carlton, program manager and Suzannah Klaniecki, AmeriCorps volunteer. Midge Price, chair of the plant sale committee, joined the board to discuss the upcoming sale.

1. Approval of minutes. Corrections were made to the March minutes. Linda moved to adopt the amended minutes; Sandy seconded. Those minutes were adopted as amended.

2. Treasurer's report. Linda reviewed the balance sheet and actions to address cash flow. Cindy moved to accept the Treasurer's report, with amended date, Sandy seconded, and the report was approved.

YTD income \$1,597.25

YTD expenses \$6,551.13

Current assets: \$75,770.62

3. State Representative's Report. See attached written report. Sandy discussed the report with the board, noting

- a. There is a proposal to change the state board's fiscal year from November 1-October 31 to a calendar year. In addition, discussion included
- b. State board is considering a change from individual memberships to defining chartered foundations as the members. This proposal highlights the importance of keeping our charter up-to-date.
- c. Please let Sandy know if anyone has additional ideas for the state questionnaire.
- d. Notice requesting nominees for the state awards is expected shortly, deadline June 1.
- e. Discussion of importance of reporting volunteer hours.

Cindy moved to accept the report and include it in our minutes. Linda seconded. Motion approved.

4. Committees.

a. Publicity. Cori is updating Children's Garden flyers for the plant sale. Kaleen will ask Nancy Mills about the status of the banner over State Street in downtown Olympia.

b. Plant Sale.

i. Our van can transport plants and a limited number of volunteers. Cori and Midge will be working out transport of people for the plant sale. Cori met with City of Olympia about signage and parking at Dirt Works.

ii. Midge noted last year was our best ever for the plant sale. She expressed optimism for this year and said more volunteers are needed. Power is all set up and we have a backup generator ready to go. Kaleen advised of solutions for taking credit cards during the sale; cash

and check (not credit) will be accepted during the Gala night. Midge noted help from interns has been especially good this year. She will speak about the plant sale at the upcoming membership meeting.

iii. As a reward after the sale, the committee and volunteers will have a private tour at Far Reaches Farms in Port Townsend on May 27. Midge will provide info for the Friday Flash.

5. Program Report.

a. Suzannah's fern workshop was standing room only. RSVPs would be of enormous help. Suzannah has been busy with many workshops, has met with all three gardening committees, and noted that the Little Library project is underway.

b. Among the projects Cori noted:

i. The cluster meeting is Wednesday, June 24, at 10a.m.

ii. A request for next year's AmeriCorps member has been submitted, and we hope to hear by July or August – start date is October 1.

iii. Cori has many outreach workshops and projects underway, including Safeplace garden plans, Fish & Wildlife's Lunch and Learn event, Origami, Hostas, Fred Meyer Planting Day, and the MRC kick-off.

iv. Information about the Swap (April 22) has gone out more widely than expected, so the event has been moved to Heritage Hall.

v. Cori is working on the MOU with Olympia Farmer's Market and will put into it our choice for the shed style.

vi. Closed Loop Park roofs will cost \$250 plus tax for temporary repairs.

6. MOU with WSU and Thurston County. With a change to make more generic the name of the person to be notified, the board generally approved the substance of the current draft. The board will take action once WSU finalizes the document. Cori will determine who will sign for WSU.

7. Bylaws. Kaleen worked through questions and suggestions she has received, and several amendments were made to 5.3 ("Washington"), 6.2.3 (add MRC program), 7.2 (delete "acting"), and 7.3.8 (delete second addition). Cindy moved approval to forward the bylaws to the membership for adoption, Sandy seconded, and the motion was adopted. Bylaws will be forwarded for a vote at the June 16 membership meeting.

8. Adjourn. The next meeting is set for May 13 at 5:30p.m. at the WSU Extension Office.

State Representative Report for 04/14/2015 Meeting

Information from State Board Meeting 03/20/2015 in Longview WA

1. 2015 State Education Conference in Vancouver
Registration is open. As of 3/20/15, 44 people had registered (1 from Thurston County). If you register before 5/1/15 and stay 2 nights at the Hilton, you will be entered in a raffle/drawing for \$100.
This year the registration fee covers a meal on Thursday night (heavy snacks) as well as the banquet on Friday night.
Rate at the Hilton is \$112 per night.
The Governor's wife – Trudi Inslee will attend the opening ceremonies
Website is: www.
Information about the raffle will be sent out in May.
2. 2016 and 2017 State Education Conference
To date no County has volunteered to Host these Conferences
Clark County, which is hosting this year's conference, offered to provide help and advice for any County interested in hosting. Clark hosted a money making conference in 2010.
3. Report by Interim State MG Program Lead, Nicole Martini
 - Revised Master Gardener Program Handbook is available on the WSU website
 - New MG Training manual may be ready by June 2016. There are approx. 20 authors and each article/chapter has to be peer reviewed
 - WA Dept of Natural Resources has granted \$30,000 to WSU for an on-line Tree Stewardship training program. This might be completed by Dec 2016 Or Jan 2017. It will be open to MGs and others. It might qualify for CE credit and completion might earn certification in Urban Forestry.
 - WSU working on an evaluation tool to show value of the MG Program to WSU.
 - **Reporting of Volunteer Hours –**
NOTE: I will defer this until our meeting as Cori may want to discuss this issue as part of her report
4. MGFWS By-Law changes – There was considerable discussion about the Bylaws and changes needed to comply with State law and reality.
One area that we agreed needs more thought/discussion is the membership definition. The current wording is:
“All WSU Master Gardeners and interns in good standing shall be deemed to be members of the MGFWS by virtue of their membership in chartered Master Gardener foundations and affiliates” (Article II, sect 1 of MGFWS ByLaws)

NOTE: I would like to discuss this issue at our Board meeting

5. **Charters** - Much discussion at the meeting about County Charters.

I would like to discuss this at our meeting

6. Questionnaire – all agreed that it would be good to know about other counties. We also agreed that the questionnaire sent to the Counties needs to be amended with more questions added.

MGFWS BOARD CALENDAR for 2015

03-20-2015 Cowlitz County Host at Training Center in Longview/Kelso

6-26-2015 Yakima County Host

09-17-2015 Clark County Host at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver

10-23-2015 Pierce County tentative host until we have a site for the 2016 conference