



Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County

Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2019

3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Olympia WA 98503

5:30 p.m. Call to Order

Present: Board Members, Charley Barron, President, Jerry Stayton, Vice President, Kerry Norem, Treasurer, Steve Wilson, Treasurer-elect, George Cowan, State Representative, Becky Emrich, Member-at-Large, and Pam Roberts, Secretary

Also Present: Cori Carlton, Program Manager, Linda Talen, Ralph Gross, David Bell, Marie Kirk, Nancy Tromble, John Hefner, Meagan Thorn

Board Reports

Minutes – March 13, 2019 Board meeting

Minutes were approved online previously in order to provide information to bank. Approved minutes were acknowledged.

Treasurer's Report – March 2019 report was presented by Kerry.

Kerry Norem announced that she will be moving to Bozeman, Montana, in July. She will be commuting occasionally but will not be available to fulfill duties of Treasurer. She will be working with Steve to bring him up to speed prior to her departure.

YTD Income:	\$ 3,382.03
YTD Expenses:	\$ 7,397.68
Current Assets:	\$27,757.29

Kerry reported that annual taxes were filed on February 28, 2019.

Motion was made by Becky, seconded by Jerry, and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.

President Elect -

Barb (Excused) submitted the following report in writing: I met with Donna Doerer on March 18 to discuss sponsorship. After that meeting I recruited Mary Childers, 2017 MG, to participate in a Sponsorship Task Force/Committee. We had some questions that we needed Cori's help with, so the three of us met on April 5th with Cori and Charley Barron. We received the clarification we needed at that meeting and the Sponsorship Task Force will meet again on April 15. Cori and Charley will be updated on the group's progress via email.

Member-At-Large –

Becky reported that the next membership meeting will be held Tuesday, April 16 at the Health Department. Dan Conrad will speak on Dahlias. Becky asked Board members to arrive at 5:30
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Bookmarks will be available for everyone to take home and distribute widely.

June meeting plans were discussed. There must be a County employee available if we use the Health Department. Cori usually fills that role, but she will be at the International MG Convention at that time. Another possibility is the Salvation Army, although it is not regularly available on a Thursday. Since the bookmarks already show the June 20 date, we need to stay with that date.

Follow-up: Need to look into alternative sites for June 20 membership meeting. Nothing decided at this time.

State Foundation Rep. –

George stated that the State Foundation is seeking help for the State MG Convention in 2020. It will be held in September 2020 at Fort Warden in Port Townsend. Housing reserved/available Room for 300 attendees

The State Foundation is still planning to build a \$2million endowment. They are asking individual county foundations to donate toward it.

George expressed concern about divergent representation from county to county. Some of the largest county organizations don't attend the State meetings. The current State President is former Lewis County President.

Follow-up: George will discuss the issue of representation with current State President (NAME????) He will also express a desire to have a formal presentation from them as they seek contributions to the endowment.

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

Publicity - Linda Talen reported that she has an outdated list of contacts for the plant sale. She will be going through the list, updating it, and contacting organizations with requests for publicity.

Linda will contact JoAn and Joanie for information correction.

Linda is making arrangements for Plant Sale advertisement banners over Martin Way.

She has contacted Thurston Talk with information. The publicity is a work in Progress

Board commented that we need to build publicity team, so all this work isn't up to one person.

Plant Sale - Meagan Thorn reported that the nursery is recovering from snow and cold and is behind the usual preparation curve. They could use volunteers on Wednesdays from 9 – 1. There is lots of organization, weeding, trimming, grooming to be done. Next week is the deadline for plant donations. Midge will be taking plant sale volunteer names at next meeting. She has a list of various jobs. She will need to know when they can work and what they want to do. Water has been turned on. Van has been reserved for transporting volunteers. They have the names of 3 potential drivers.

City of Olympia – need to bring them up to speed on parking issues.

Parking – Off duty police officer not available for traffic control. Recommended explorer post that does parking management. Police will check in periodically.

Donation to the explorer post will be requested in return for the help.

Power for Plant Sale pending is pending.

Fence – Group is hoping for movement. It is still full of holes and amateur repairs.

Ownership of the fence is still an issue. City is not co-operating. Question: Do we want to repair something we don't for sure own?

Motion was made by Jerry: That the MG Foundation pay (up to a cap of \$2000) to fix the fence as quickly as possible.

Pam seconded the motion. Board approved the motion.

Follow-up: Charley will work with Plant Sale Co-Chairs to get fence repairs done asap.

Charley expressed the appreciation he and the other Board members have for the hard-working and talented Plant Sale group. Meagan left the room at this time.

Linda left the room at 6:40 pm

Retail - JoAn Reitzwood has submitted a request to increase the retail budget by \$300 so that she can secure more inventory.

Motion was made by Jerry and seconded by George that JoAn's request to increase retail budget by \$300 be approved.

Motion was carried.

Kerry asked if the retail was getting sufficient mark-up.

Follow-up: Jerry will look into retail mark-up issue with JoAn and report back next month.

David Bell raised the subject of bartering plants among different organizations. The recent opportunity is to trade plants for gravel. MG Dave Humphreys has raised the issue. David Bell asked if it is feasible to work together to make this happen.

Follow-up: – Charley will talk with David Bell and bring back a report at the next meeting.

Program Report

Cori Carlton

2nd annual Master Your: Garden, Compost, Recycling Education Day. Although we didn't have as many in attendance as we had hoped we still were able to educate about 200 attendees (general public and fellow volunteers), fundraise just over \$1,900 and promote our other upcoming educational events. Great job!

MG & MRC question/answer clinic @ the Extension office is now open and operating on our spring schedule of Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am to 1pm.

2019 Master Gardener trainees have completed 6 out of 12 classes. Certified MG's have also been attending the classes and earning CE credits.

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that our MG & MRC program assistant Allyson will be leaving us, her last day will be April 15th. Her leave is due to a health condition. I'm not sure what the next steps are for refilling the position but I'm talking with our HR department to work through this. I'll keep you posted as I know more.

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A name has been finalized for our demo garden anniversary celebrations on Saturday, July 13th from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The event will be called "Growing through the Decades Garden Party". Our next planning meeting will be on Thursday, April 18th at 10:30am at the Extension office. All are welcome to attend. We need at least one representative from each demo garden to be there as well.

Demo Garden Anniversary Calendar/Fundraiser will be Thursday, May 2nd at 1pm @ Extension office

The Children's Garden committee has met twice and have finalized the 2019 schedule. The Children's Garden Program will be on Tuesdays from 10am to Noon from July 9th through August 20th. Updates to the brochure have been made and will be posted on our website shortly.

Outreach season continues, our largest events this month were State Office Green Day and Fred Meyer Planting Day with over 1,500 served.

May 3 – new Commissioner will meet with County employees.

My priorities and continuing projects:

- o 2019 MG training.
- o Demo garden anniversary planning.
- o Summer and fall outreach calendar planning for 2019
- o Unpacking and organizing our new office spaces and storage unit.

Old Business

Volunteer Database

Board members asked about the continuing installation of the Volunteer Database in the absence of Allyson. Cori responded that Deb (office admin) will help in the absence of Allyson

Meeting Location for Membership Meetings

Location is still an issue, since Health Department available space has been severely restricted. Health Department is still available, but room size is much smaller than before.

Becky reported that the South Bay Grange is not a possibility.

Olympia Beekeepers use Middle School on Sleater Kinney. That may be a possibility

Follow-up: Charley will discuss availability with the Salvation Army people.

MGFTC Newsletter

Charley announced that Jim Thomas would be willing to help with newsletter. Newsletter name suggestions are being collected by Pam and will be voted on by membership at the April 16 meeting.

Follow-up: Pam will bring ballots to the 4/16 membership meeting.

New Business

Dirt Works Sensory Path Project – adaptive gardening

MG Interns Marie Kirk, Nancy Tromble, and John Hefner presented an overview of their certification project. (See attached).

Board members expressed enthusiasm for the imaginative and detailed project, and Cori expressed concern about the safety of participants as they move the heavy purple gazebo. The participants will begin the project in May.

Cori's current budget is \$650 for all MG Intern projects. The Board will need to increase amount because this project alone will require funding in the amount of approximately \$1,000. Members discussed follow up with Donna Doerer to get some help from sponsors.

Jerry made a motion to accept project and fund it.

Discussion: Members discussed how to reduce original budget with donations, sponsorships, etc.

George seconded Jerry's motion. The motion was approved.

Follow-up: Participants will be asked to talk about this project at membership meeting next week.

Participants were asked to provide a safety plan documentation.as well as a plan for how it will be maintained. Suggestion was made that they enlist interns from this years' class to help.

MGFTC Thank You Notes – Need official notes.

Follow-up: Becky will work on an example to share with Board members.

MGFTC Board Member Nametags – Barb has suggested that we have unique name tags for Board members.

Follow-up: Barbara will work on a format and present to the Board at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20

Submitted

Pamela E. Roberts
Secretary

Upcoming Meetings/Events

April 16	Membership Meeting
May 8	Board Meeting
May 18	Plant Sale
June 12	Board Meeting
June 13	Cluster Meeting
July 10	Board Meeting
July 13	Demonstration Gardens Party

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