

Master Gardeners Board Meeting March 2, 2010

Present: Mary Wiedenmeier, Kathy Daniels, Ivan Placko, Alice Graf, Linda Baeten, Stan Meyer, Bob Potter, Ken Hawk, Roy Anne Moulton, Marge Menacher, Audrey Ruedinger, Linda Werner, Nick Schneider, Lawanda Jungwirth, Bob Kosanke, Arlene Kosanke.

Excused: Sue Bohn

Special Report on Facebook – Lawanda Jungwirth

Lawanda suggested the MGs become Facebook friendly. She provided 3 handouts, one was an example of an existing Master Gardener Facebook Page from Sonoma County California, another was a proposed WCMGA page and a third was how to promote the Facebook page. Some members already belong to Facebook. This would be less formal than e-mail or the newsletter.

- Any member could have it, but it would be optional.
- Leave it open to all.
- Concern: those without a computer would lose out.
- Not to replace the newsletter, but could have a spot in the newsletter.
- Could have Facebook training for the membership and put together a cheat sheet.
- Provide a link on the Website.
- Let it evolve and grow.

This would be for comments, just talking, social networking. For example: “my daffodils are up”, etc. Discussion took place. By consensus, the Board gave the go ahead to Lawanda. We hope to get Stacy Voight and Kim Sharpf to help with the training. Put it on the agenda for the next Business Meeting.

Treasurer’s Report –

Alice provided handouts. The total as of February 28 is \$14,956.26. This does not include all the receipts from Winter Escape/Summer Dreams. We did well selling wormcastings and cookbooks at the event. Our CD is due soon. It was decided to leave it roll over. Alice hopes to have a 2010 budget proposal for the membership this month.

Secretary’s Report –no changes were made. Board minutes are posted on the Website, and Business Meeting minutes are posted in the Newsletter.

Old business

Worm Casting Brochure – Nick found about 250 copies of the brochure. We will redo the brochure with the new name and logo when these are depleted. There should be enough for the Home and Garden Show.

New Business

Website – Linda Werner reported Jean Reed was not able to come tonight. They are in the process of redesigning the website. Discussion followed:

- Alice gave Linda a handout of “most frequently asked questions” to include.
- We need the membership form on website.
- Information resources such as Lawanda’s articles.
- Include other links.
- Have a password for member information to protect members.
- Include more pictures.
- Jean is working on a warmer, friendlier design. Linda is working on making it user friendly

- Promote Wormiculite & cook books.
- Provide “contact us” feature.
- Do we have a MG email address?
- Promote events.
- Create a detailed calendar. Will get that from the updated SOPs.

Discussion took place as to where the various MG forms are being kept. They were created by Linda Tobey, updated by Sue Bohn. The Secretary could keep the forms in a computer file.

Jean only changes the website when asked. Mary will give her a list of items to keep an eye on that we know will change, such as new officers, membership, etc. Kim & Stacy are willing to help. Let Linda Werner or Jean know your suggestions.

SOP's: Ivan reported

Alice & Ivan have been meeting. A new outline is being developed. They looked at the state SOPs for guidance. A lot of redundant and inconsistent information was evident in our SOPs. They are attempting to make the whole procedure understandable and have been working back & forth via email. They hope to have a draft for the next Board Meeting.

Education Committee – Roy Anne

Winter Escape/Summer Dreams - Roy Anne gave Alice the invoice for Melinda Myers. More expenses will be forthcoming. We may have lost money. The food was expensive, and the speaker cost \$1,750 + travel. The numbers aren't in yet. The Committee will analyze the data. Next year would be easier due to experience. It was great exposure for the MGs. We will need to decide whether we want to continue WE/SD next year. Royanne figured \$1,000 for anticipated expense in the budget.

Amish trip – Marge went with Pat Behm to explore the Amish greenhouses between Manchester & Dalton. They visited 5 out of 8 and ruled out one. At this point the trip would start at Miller's move on to Otto's, then Salemville, then Grand River greenhouse. The Amish have great prices. There is also a general store by Otto's. Marge has a list of Amish side businesses we may wish to visit. There could also be a stop at Bloch's on the way back. Marge proposed we get a bus from Nationwide and include Appleton. April 24 is early, but they tend to sell out. She proposed a \$30.00 charge for the trip. We would get a break on the bus because we are a repeat customer. We could use the email list Diane Iott has from WE/SD, send information to the Appleton MGs, Wild Ones, Winneconne, etc. We need 35 people to break even. 55 is max for the bus. It's nice to have extra room to haul plants.

Klem's Song Sparrow – Alice

Alice had interest from those who did this trip last year, but decided to postpone until next year. The only date available would have been May 22, the same date as the Paine's Festival.

Wildflower walk, Scheduled for May 1st.

Ball Horticultural Gardens, scheduled for August 6.

CSA trip - Nick needs to work out the details. It will most likely be in summer and may include meat, dairy, as well as produce operations.

Nick also mentioned worm castings – sellers of alternative fertilizers need to be licensed. He will look into it.

Approve 2010 Projects - Ivan

Ivan had a list of projects compiled from last year, which included some new ones for this year. He suggested a need to require a year-end report in the future to be approved the following year. Many year-end reports were missing. Some projects listed were one-time projects and eliminated from the list. Not all projects have turned in an application at this point.

Discussion

- Community Gardens – now divided into 3 projects. The Board will ask for clarification before approving this project.
- County Fair - \$150.00, Sue Bohn, includes 2 - \$25.00 scholarships, per Alice. Approved.
- Invasives – no money involved. Approved, but combined buckthorn & garlic mustard.
- Farmers Market – \$300, Dorothy Gayhart and Janet Priebe. Approved.
- Habitat - \$650, Dave Leonard. \$500 is the cap. Discussion. \$50 per site last year. 4 homes this year. There is also a \$250 grant from the State organization. Mary will invite Dave to explain the situation to the Board before approval.
- Home & Garden Show - \$308, Cindy Meszaros and Joni Pagel. Approved.
- Humane Society Memorial Gardens – New project. \$500, Dara Sitter. Mary and Roy Anne expressed interest in working on this project and there are others who want to work on it. Approved.
- Octagon House - \$450, Jerry Robak. Approved.
- Paine Gardens – no money involved, Bob Potter. Approved.
- Parkview. Deemed separate projects. Flower Arranging \$30.00, Pat Behm. Prairie Garden, \$175, Ken Hawk. Vegetable Garden, \$105, Al and Judy Harms. All approved, however we still need to hear from the Cutting Garden project lead.
- Rushford Town Hall –all donations, Audrey Ruedinger and Carol Dorsch. Approved.
- Washington School - \$500, Marge Menacher. Approved.
- Webster School - \$500, Marge Menacher. Approved.
- Mercy Hospital Potted Plants – Diana Dougherty. Approved.
- Park View Health Center Entrance – Bill Weber. Approved.
- St Mary's Appleton – Lawanda Jungwirth. Approved.

Clarification needed for Community Gardens and Habitat projects. Mary will ask them to come to the next Board meeting.

Discussion on how to handle the money for projects took place. It was moved and seconded Linda Baeten/Bob Potter to not award money in advance for projects. Receipts should be turned in for immediate reimbursement, or a quote provided. Motion carried unanimously. Project leads will be notified.

Other New Business-

State Convention

Bob Kosanke reported the State Convention will be in Sheboygan on July 24. Last year we gave \$100 dollars toward the convention. Moved and seconded, Alice/Bob Potter to give \$100 to state conference again this year. The Board decided to not have a table this year.

Yearly Scholarship

This should be included in the budget.

Meeting adjourned 8:32pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baeten