

Master Gardeners Board Meeting

January 6, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.

Present were: Mary Shepard, Co -President, Linda Petek, Co-President, Betty Hoytink, Co-Vice President, Eric Kropp, Co-Vice President, Sue Egner, Treasurer, Kathy Schultz, Secretary, Donna Kudlas, Jane Kuhn, Mary Jo Maher, Stanley Meyer, Ivan Placko, Peg Wagner, and Kimberly Miller, UWEX Advisor.

Excused: Val Stabenow

Guests: Jay Birschbach, Julie Parker Birschbach

Treasurer's Report:

Report for October was submitted and approved.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes were accepted. The minutes are current on the website and can be found there.

New Business:

SOP revisions: The Standard Operating Procedures for the Master Gardeners were reviewed and suggestions made for change. Most notable changes include updating terminology from Core Projects to Long Term Projects and Individual Projects to Small Group Projects; Certification for First Year or uncertified volunteers changed to reflect recertification requirements.

Review Awards Dinner: The Awards Dinner in December was discussed. Comments included that the food could have been served warmer, the LaSure's facility was convenient for members to access, and using LaSure's provided significant savings over last year's costs (LaSure's does not charge for add ons such as use of microphone, equipment, etc.)

Projects: Project Leads are scheduled to meet February 17, 2015 at 5:30 at the Coughlin Center.

WIMGA update: State Representative Sue Egner shared that the State Association will be promoting their conference at Winter Escape/Summer Dreams conference.

Extension Update: Ashley Rolph is the main clerical support now for the Master Gardeners. There are two open positions to be posted for the office now, as Melody Piper retired and Kristie Katz took a position with UW Oshkosh.

Name tags for the newly certified volunteers are in and they have a new look and logo.

Kimberly has several invasive species cards sets available if anyone needs this.

The 2015 Members booklets have several errors and corrections will be coming out. Changes in the dates that appear after member's names reflect when the person completed their initial education, not when they may have been certified. First year, uncertified members will show Class of 2014 – Intern.

Kimberly asked that the books not be shared outside of the members, to respect the privacy of personal information contained in the books.

Education Committee: WE/SD conference is the focus right now. Registrations are coming in, and there is a great speaker line up for the day. Instead of vendors, the committee is setting up a silent auction for conference attendees to bid on. The next event will be the bus trip to the Madison expo on Saturday February 14, 2015.

2015 Goals:

1. Expand and improve communication, and an integral part of this will be improving the website. Discussion on whether to involve professional help, have a public website, and a members only website, or a single website. A group will be formed to look at all of this in the coming year.
2. Board Members were asked to go to the website and list things to be updated or changed. Will discuss at the next board meeting.

2015 Budget: Sue presented a proposed 2015 budget and members are asked to review.

Meeting Speakers: No speaker is set yet for the January Master Gardener meeting, and some possible future topics were offered.

Emeritus status: Ken Hawk requested emeritus status; a motion was set forth to grant that and was approved. Ken will continue to advise on the Parkview project.

Listing of projects: there was a request to add small projects to the Member Booklet so they are accessible, but it was decided that the small group projects are too fluid and come and go, so they will not be added to the booklet.

Upcoming Events:

Business Meeting January 13

Board Meeting February 3

Winter Escapes/Summer Dreams February 7

Business Meeting February 10

Bus Trip to Madison Expo February 14

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Schultz, Secretary