

Master Gardeners Board Meeting

April 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

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, Stanley Meyer, Pat Behm, Peg Wagner, Val Stabenow, Dara Sitter, and Kimberly Miller, UWEX Advisor.

Excused:

Guests: Jane Kuhn, Mary Jo Maher, Virginia Slattery Ivan Placko

Treasurer's Report:

Report for March was submitted and approved.

Secretary's Report:

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

New Business:

1. **Credit Card.** A motion was presented and passed to look into obtaining a credit card for the WCMG. Sue Egner will check into the process, and bring back information on risks, protections, who can use the card, and credit limit.
2. **Non-Discrimination policy.** Kimberly clarified what needs to be done to comply with the non-discrimination requirements of UW Extension. Organizations that will be in partnership with WCMC on projects will need to sign the UW Extension form, as well as submit their non discrimination policy, or submit a statement on the organization's letterhead. If Master Gardeners are requested just to give a talk, etc., then the forms are not needed.
3. **Website:** Eric reviewed the MG website, and noted that project descriptions are not up to date on the website. Eric will identify the ones to be updated and will bring to the next meeting. Linda will research the Go Daddy website builders to see if it will be feasible to use that service to update our website. Linda will let Jane know we are looking at updating the website, possibly adding a member's only area.
4. **Projects:** Mary researched what is happening with the Community Gardens project in Menasha. The MG who was leading this is no longer able to continue. The project scope consists of 5 raised beds in front of the Community Gardens. Mary will bring to the April 14th business meeting to ask if any members would like to take on this project.

Projects to be presented at April meeting:

Matt and Julie Miller will present the Humane Society project

Lil Hanschke will present Parkview Flower arranging

Tom and Bill Weber will present Parkview Flower and Vegetable Gardening

Projects with completed paperwork approved:

Oshkosh Farmers Market

Plant Health Advisors

Oshkosh Humane Society

Paine Gardens

Gardens at Octagon House

Carter Memorial Library

Lutheran Homes Oshkosh

St. Raphaels

Omro Veteran Gardens

Education and control of Invasive Species

A motion was presented and passed that Projects need to have the necessary non-discrimination forms completed before being officially approved by the board.

5. WIMGA update

Sue reported that the State proposed budget cuts could impact state support of the Master Gardener program in the future.

There are Master Composters in the state that are available for talks.

WIMGA has grant money available, and Sue encouraged us to apply for grants for projects.

For scholarship dollars, Sue indicated we need to follow up to see if the winner took the scholarship or if it was left unused. Sue suggested having the winner come to the MG meetings to talk about what they accomplished with the scholarship money, their interest in horticulture, etc.

We may be required in the future to do background checks on members on a regular basis.

Sue gave a reminder that if anyone takes pictures of children with their projects, a release must be signed by the parent/guardian.

Master Gardener vests are available to order from the state – could be used at educational events. Sue will bring up for discussion at the member meeting.

Request for funds from LaCrosse for Summer conference: A motion was presented and approved to supply a request for \$50.00 to the LaCrosse area Master Gardener group for a silent auction at the Summer Conference. Proceeds will go to WIMGA.

6. **Extension Update:** Kim confirmed the Extension will be facing budget cuts over the next few years, but is not sure what that will mean yet. Kim cautioned that while individuals can express thoughts and support through media such as #because of UW-EX, Master Gardeners cannot do so as representing the Master Gardener program. The Fall Workshops will be on Invasive Species (related to Urban Forestry) on September 15th in Oshkosh and September 16th at Green Bay.
7. **Education Committee:** The group is focused on the two upcoming summer trips, and on the February 2016 Winter Escape/Summer Dreams seminar at LaSure Hall in Oshkosh.
8. **New Member Orientation/Mentoring:** Ginny reported that there has been a great response to pairing up mentors with the new members, and she would like to continue with the new class. It was suggested that this should be added to the Member Book.
9. **Meeting Speakers:** April – Shoreline Restoration
May - Kueckenhof Gardens – Amsterdam
10. **Financial Review:** Mary reported that the 2014 review of the finances has been completed by Patty Schmitz. Patty has agreed to continue to be the member at large to do this annual review.
11. **Picnic:** Parkview June 9th has been reserved for the Picnic. Committee members will look into having LaSure's provide meats and then have members bring a dish to pass. The plant exchange will also be a part of the picnic, with those who wish to participate.
12. **New Business:** Stuarts offered to do a garden tour of their greenhouses, and new plants. They would also be available for speaking at meetings.

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting May 5

Business Meeting May 12th

June Picnic June 9th at Parkview

Chicago Bus Trip June 13-14

Meeting adjourned 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Schultz, Secretary