

March 2, 2021

Winnebago County Master Gardener Board Minutes

Start Time: 6:14 PM

Roll Call: Ed Dombrowski, Bob Keepkens, Deb Butch, Kathy Prockno, Deb Voyles, Grace Oliver, Ruth Retzlaff, Virginia Slattery, Mary Moosemiller, Anne Murphy, Kimberly Miller Excused: Britton Dake and Sandy Gollhofer

Motion to approve agenda: Deby, Ruth 2nd, 10-0 motion carried

Secretary's Report: Minutes were sent to Board. Ginny had clarification – New Member Liaison is Petey Clark.

Treasurer's Report: \$5343.11 in Checking. \$28,980 in Money Market. \$395 check to WIMGA. 79 members. \$118.14 check to UW Extension for printing. Both checks not cashed yet. Kimberly will check on it.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning: Kimberly explained the state's proposal. Needs approval tonight. Project starts May – Oct. 31, 2021. 1-year Pilot Project. Rolled out the week of Volunteer Appreciation. Motion to approve project: Deb, Kathy 2nd. 10-0 Motion carried.

Education Committee: Mary reported the Sept. Business meeting will include tree ID and with some luck will also have an added part at the UW Oshkosh Arboretum the following Saturday if it works out. Ideas for WESD 2022 have been thrown around and they will hold the event virtually if needed.

Project Updates: Kathy reported the Lead had their meeting on Feb. 23 and it included COVID Guidelines and Approval Applications. Status of PHA was good and on hold. Farmer's Market and Sullivan's Woods are not allowed. Shattuck Park transitioning back to partner. Prairie Gardens is looking for a lead and there are two possibilities. The Virtual Project Fair is going to be put on the April Business meeting agenda and Bob will do this.

Extension Report: Kimberly said she received one COVID application from Octagon House and will wait to receive others to review them all together. There are 18 members who haven't done the annual enrollment and need to by March 31, 2021, to be eligible to volunteer. Exempt Status still needs to do the annual enrollment. April 1 starts a new NET ID with Canvas through UW System. Members will do the Onboarding Lite and this strips out the mandatory reporting/background checks and volunteers will get 10 hours of education for doing this. A one-time and done for volunteers for 2022. Plants Plus will be moved to Canvas for members to access at any time.

Communications: Bob had nothing.

Old Business

Deby reported there will be two lines for Roy Anne donations with donations toward the Octagon House being used first. She received another \$20 donation for Roy Anne. Should she be sending thank yous? Ed and Bob will take care of this.

Indoor Plant Competition: Ends March 5. So far we have Flowering: 10, Non-Flowering: 3, Succulents: 5 and Chia: 0. Ed will have ribbons for all entries along with places. Winners will be announced at the Business meeting on Tues., March 9.

COVID Video – Bob watched it. It was suggested to have members watch on their own time. The link and where to find it will be sent to the membership.

WIMGA Discussion

Ed sent an email with the following WIMGA concerns:

- a. WIMGA is struggling with identity as to who they are and what they do;
- b. They are questioning what do they do for the various associations;
- c. They are questioning what is their reason for exiting, it just: Newsletter, Grants, and conferences;
- d. They do not seem to mesh well with Mike. No support from him;
- e. They go to other state conferences to see how they operate without an WIMGA Org. (MN and Iowa do not have a WIMGA similar Assoc.)
- f. They are questioning what to do with the by-laws. It seems they are dictated to as to a direction;
- g. There are mixed messages regarding membership (I.e. not paying dues but still a member)
- h. She did ask about our rep. I provided her with the only email I had. She has had no contact with her even though emails have been sent out.

Kimberly spoke about the background with Susan Mahr giving them support and Mike not having the time to do the same. Our local rep hasn't been active and doesn't reply to emails/calls about what is going on. Bob will compose a letter addressing this and asking if she doesn't want to be the rep to step down. Ashley can mail it to her. Discussion continued about is we should stay with WIMGA. Kimberly didn't know if we needed to be part of WIMGA. We are paid through January 2022 so we can discuss again.

New Business

Question Survey – Kathy would like to know how many want to volunteer at gardens. She will get a question together for Kimberly to use at the March Business meeting.

Education Committee: Bob discussed the need to speakers at Business Meetings. There are so many opportunities to get continuing education hours is it necessary to have at Business meetings? Tabled for further discussion. The addition of 2 Education Committee members was approved by Ed and Bob.

Break-Out Sessions at Business Meetings: Bob would like to ask members about the speakers at meetings. Ginny asked if members would tune out of meetings without a speaker. Grace likes to have the speakers.

Fundraising: Mary would like to table this until later date.

Agenda attachment to Business meeting email: Bob will do this along with adding the breakout questions and any hand outs

Motion to adjourn: Ruth, Deby 2nd, 10-0 motion carried

Adjourn: 7:50 PM