

**Master Gardeners Board Meeting
May 4, 2010**

The Meeting was called to order by Mary Wiedenmeier, 6:00 pm

Present: Mary Wiedenmeier, Kathy Daniels, Ivan Placko, Linda Baeten, Sue Bohn, Stan Meyer, Bob Potter, Ken Hawk, Roy Anne Moulton, Marge Menacher, Audrey Ruedinger, Nick Schneider.

Excused: Alice Graf

Treasurer's Report –

Alice was not present tonight. A handout of the Treasurer's Report was available. Total of all accounts as of 4/30/2010 was \$16,904.06. It was noted that \$300 from worm castings sold at the Winter Escape Summer Dreams seminar was not listed. There should also be some money from cookbooks sold. Melinda's deposit doesn't reflect the total cost as travel costs were included with the last book order. This has been fixed. We are still looking for a possible refund on books plus the \$300 from worm castings. We will need to confer with Alice.

Secretary's Report – Linda Baeten

A correction to the minutes was noted. It should be Read School, not Reed. Linda will amend the minutes.

SOPs – Ivan Placko

No progress has been made. Time has been scarce, but Alice and Ivan are still working on it. A question was brought up regarding our status as a charitable organization. We operate as a 501-3C organization according to our by-laws, but we have no legal document to back it up. Mary will look into it. If this is the case, a donation to the Master Gardeners would be tax deductible.

Taking Root – Linda Baeten

Linda contacted Alice regarding the donation to Taking Root. She sent Alice the donation form for the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and a Check Requisition form. Linda asked the Foundation how the Master Gardeners would be recognized for their gift. They replied we would receive a letter of thanks, and be mentioned in the Annual Report. Linda felt we could perhaps get some recognition on our own when some of the flower beds get planted by contacting the Northwestern, or at least getting a letter to the Editor. Linda will follow up. Linda has sent a Project Approval Request to Ivan for Taking Root.

Education Committee Report – Roy Anne Moulton

- Wild Flower Walk – Eight MGs met in Waushara County. Some were from the Waushara MGs. They identified 48 different species of wildflowers. Elword Engle, retired from the DNR, led the walk. He is a wealth of information. It may be possible to get a list of the flowers from Karen Wedde.
- Ball Horticultural Gardens – Roy Anne is working on this trip which is scheduled for August 6.
- Marge Menacher had a request from Roosevelt School for 200-250 plant plugs for an outdoor area they are creating. The consensus was that it was not something the MGs would pay for outright.
- The Washington School project has been successful so far.

Website Presentation / Discussion – Jean Reed

Jean has been working on a new Website Design with Linda Werner. She thanked Linda for sorting through all the information to be included on the site. Other members who were interested in helping have declined.

- There was discussion regarding members using a password to get member information. A Calendar of events would be included in this area as well as registration forms for events.
- Pictures would be sprinkled throughout the website.
- Resources would provide links to the State websites. We are linked to the State MG site already.
- Minutes, SOPs, and By-laws would be found in the membership log-in area.
- We are looking to use the same color palate for all our publications.
- Mary suggested developing an official letterhead for correspondence.
- We need to come up with a way to cancel members when they drop out.
- There is a need to have a publicity committee that could feed information to Jean for posting on the website. Linda Werner will write an article for the newsletter regarding a search for a publicity person/committee. Could be known as a Communications Committee.
- There is a need to have the membership person keep Jean up to date on membership.
- Linda Baeten will be responsible for keeping all the forms on the website up to date.

Discussion took place regarding a future Communications Committee. Possible needs for the committee could be:

- A graphic artist, or the purchase of such services
- Updating Website as to events, registration forms.
- Have a liaison role between the website manager, UWEX and the MG Membership.
- Proofreader
- Add occupation, life skills, experience, talents, and hobbies to the membership registration form.

Amish Plant Buying Trip – Marge Menacher

Marge gave a report on the buying trip. Unfortunately one bus driver did not provide a positive experience, while the other driver did a superb job. Consequently, some people were very dissatisfied. Both buses were to take the same routes, but this was not what happened. Marge has sent e-mails to the Nation Wide Bus Company, but has not received a reply at this point. Alice may have the copy of the contract with Nation Wide. It was suggested we have a member who is an attorney look at it. Meanwhile, the MGs could draft a letter of apology to the riders on Bus #2.

Project Approval – Ivan Placko

All Projects received for 2010 at this point have been approved and are on file. All Project Leads have been sent the tax exempt form. They should bring the letter with them when purchasing supplies. Ivan will assemble a list of current projects.

New business

- Bob Potter - The Paine Festival of Spring is on May 22, not the 15th as has been listed in some places.
- Nick Schneider – The Prison has too much worm compost for us to be an exclusive vendor. He will let other Counties know about the opportunity as well.

- Kathy Daniels – received a letter from a Winneconne resident requesting the MGs plant and maintain two 5x3 foot flower beds. We would need an MG to take the lead on this project, and will bring it up at the Business meeting. Kathy will also contact our members from Winneconne to see if they are interested.
- Sue Bohn – the Rushford Town Hall project needs another side of the building planted.
- Mary Wiedenmeier – has a letter from Dara Sitter reporting on the progress at the Humane Society’s Memorial Garden project. Dara has been working already and all looks good. A workday is scheduled at the Shelter tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baeten