

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ed Dombrowski called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Present: Ed Dombrowski, Ruth Retzlaff, Bob Kneepkens, Valerie Stabenow, Sue Egner, Linda Werner, Jean Reed (Deby Voyles invited as a guest)

Absent: Deb Butch, Kathy Procknow

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no new items to be added to the agenda, the agenda was approved as is.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Secretaries Report

J. Reed

Minutes were posted to the web site on May 10 in time for the business meeting.

b. Treasurer's Report

D. Butch, K. Procknow

Kathy sent the report to the board. Discussion was held over the treasurer's report. Money Market Fund balance is \$25,091.92 and the checking account balance is \$4248.07. Kathy also listed annual association expenses and the board discussed that the printing expenses will not be that much as we are not printing items for meetings just displaying things on the overhead viewer at meetings. The report stated that the worm castings sale was a wash which was not accurate. The worm castings sale had a net profit of \$188. Kathy and Deb find using Quickbooks cumbersome and want to just keep the records on an Excel Spreadsheet. Since we do not have many of the expenses that we previously had with trips and trainings, the board thought that would be okay. If the Association starts doing more in the way of training and trips in the future, we can always go back to using Quickbooks.

c. Committee Reports

1. Education Committee

V. Stabenow

Valerie and Linda continue to search for programs. There is a Native Plant Certification program through Wild Ones that is available. Valerie checked with Jay Dampier and he approved. Everything is posted on the website, in the newsletter, and on our Facebook page. There are also quite a few archived programs on the website as well. Ed suggested that Linda and Valerie start thinking about the September meeting speaker. Linda stated that will be part of the Roundtable Discussions on future governance.

d. Volunteer Opportunities

D. Butch, K. Procknow

Valerie asked about the Farmer's Market. We are not doing the Farmer's Market due to liability. The most current and up-to-date listing is in the June newsletter posted on the website.

e. Extension Update

V. Stabenow

The Horticulture Educator position has been posted online. It is a part-time 50-80% position. Jay Dampier is working on a Plant Health Advisor person (Mike Maddox left). For the time being, Vijai Pandian, Horticulture Educator in Kenosha County is filling in. He is holding 1 hour ZOOM meetings twice a week for questions. Brian Hudleson is the contact for plant diseases. Brian said if you tell him you are a MG he will not charge you. PJ Liesch, Extension Entomologist, is the contact for insect pests.

f. WIMGA Report

K. Procknow

Valerie reported for Kathy on the WIMGA Eastern District meeting. Kathy sent a report before she left. The report is attached to these minutes.

Valerie reported on the WIMGA meeting. We need to check the Master Gardener/UW Extension website regularly, as well as, CANVAS and the Volunteer Vibe for the most current and up-to-date Master Gardener policies. Discussion was held on the cost of becoming a master gardener and how to address. Liability coverage was dropped, there is no way they can create a one size fits all policy for everyone in the state.

- g. Communication Board
Ed stated that a rumor was started that Kim was leaving. Ed called her and asked and she said that was not correct.
Deby Voyles suggested we need to rework the Membership Form.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Date to transfer money to Community Fund D. Butch, K. Procknow
Ed Dombrowski stated that we should move the money as soon as possible. Valerie stated she would like to be one of the people to meet with Cheryl Fowler, Scholarship Person at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.
Valerie Stabenow moved that Ed Dombrowski, as president of our group, obtain a cashier's check from the money market account at Community First in the amount of \$25,000 in order to move it to the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation for a scholarship and that the remaining balance be moved to the checking account thus closing the money market fund. Linda Werner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Ad Hoc Comm. For Governance model update L. Werner
Linda said there was a large group of people really interested in this. The group discussed that we need to simplify, simplify, simplify. This will be an interim plan until everything gets settled and then we can start thinking about adding things as we are able to.
The group is meeting again on July 12. We need to look at ways to get our meetings more meaningful and we can have some education at the meetings, some social time, and very small amount of business meeting. One idea was to have a large pool for meeting planning. Out of the pool 2-4 people would volunteer for a meeting date and do that meeting rather than have the same people plan the meeting every time. Looking at what things we can do this year and what we can do next year. Go back to the basics and then build on from there.
- b. Website Content Update (What needs to be removed) J. Reed
Valerie went through the website for Jean and made revisions. Jean printed those changes out and shared them with the board. Jean will revise accordingly.

6. ADJOURN

Linda Werner moved that we adjourn. Sue Egner seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next Board Meeting:

August 2, 2022 Coughlin Center and Zoom 6

Next Business/Membership meeting:

September 13, 2022 Coughlin Center and Zoom 6

WIMGA Eastern District Meeting

May 11, 2022

Associations in Eastern District:

NEW (Brown County), Calumet County, Door County, Fond du Lac County, Manitowoc County, Northern Lights (Marinette County), Outagamie County, Ozaukee County, Sheboygan County, Washington County, Winnebago County

Byron Hacker (Calumet) and Vicky Hopp (Washington) are the District Directors and also on the WIMGA Board.

Summary notes:

- Per Byron Hacker (WIMGA treasurer), more changes are coming in 2023 from UW, but at this time UW has not elaborated on what those are. Communication between UW and WIMGA has been difficult—Jay Dampier often has had to cancel the meeting.
- WIMGA Executive Board meets every 3 weeks
 - Looking at best practices in other states
 - Trying to define what the role of WIMGA should be in the new world
 - Working on websites, provide more resources for local associations
- Membership-recruitment and retention
 - Most associations have lost members
 - Currently there is not a way for associations to know from UW what people have completed Foundations in Gardening and Onboarding—getting this information in the future is important to recruit members into the associations
 - Cost of the training program and onboarding is a concern. One county noted that they knew of 10 or 11 people that expressed interest in the training program, but only one of them completed the training.
 - Create visibility in the community to draw people into Master Gardener program; invite community to programs, expand association membership to non-Master Gardeners
- Organization Leadership/structure
 - All of the associations present at the meeting have Boards—roles change, but people don't.
 - Most of the associations have the status of legal entity—either non-stock or 501(c)(3). Manitowoc County is not a legal entity. The rep will put some information together on how they came to the decision not to be a legal entity and share it.
 - Most associations have websites and/or Facebook pages
- Liability insurance
 - Concerns over cost
 - Door County has liability insurance for Directors/Officers
- Future meetings
 - The Eastern District plans to have quarterly meetings of the group