

Master Gardeners Board Meeting 8-4-2009

Present were: Mary Wiedenmeier, Kathy Daniels, Alice Graf, Stan Meyer, Ken Hawk, Roy Anne Moulton, Linda Werner, Sue Bohn, Linda Baeten, Nick Schneider, Marge Menacher, Barb Kuhn, Audrey Ruedinger.

Treasurer's Report:

Alice handed out a summary for the month. Discussion took place. Our trips have been good money makers for us. Alice had a breakdown of classes/trips. The buying trip was a loss due to refunds. The rest were profitable. Trips have done well historically. The bus driver's tip was discussed...they do extra for us and have helped with putting plants in the bus. The final total in the checkbook as of July 31 is \$7,600.52. With \$100 cash on hand and a \$5,000 CD, the total of all accounts is \$12,700.52.

There was no membership meeting in July, but a garden walk was held at Dorothy's ...nice.

Look for secretary's reports on the website.

Old Business

The MGV State Convention will be held on Oct 2-3. Mary and Kathy, Pat Behm, Debbie Quant, Marge Menacher are willing to go at this point. Vendors start at 5:00 pm Friday...we will have a booth. Bob Kosanke and Roy Anne are also interested in attending. It will be more affordable this year. \$60.00 is due by Sept 1st. See state website for registration. Contact Mary or Kathy for working the booth.

New Business

FVTC Scholarship – The FVTC scholarship coordinator called Marge M. and asked her to do it again. Marge is looking into offering two \$500 scholarships rather than one for \$1,000. It's a good way to get our name out there. Marge tentatively gave FVTC the OK to set up a 2010 spring scholarship. She will ask them if they prefer two \$500s or a \$1000 scholarship.

Washington school – is interested in an after school program like the one at Webster. Washington will gain some Lincoln students due to closing of Lincoln. Marge talked to the coordinator regarding a Monday class at Webster and a Tuesday/Thursday at Washington. There was a question as to whether we could do both schools. There were 12 people helping for 5 weeks at Webster. The program continued this summer with only Marge. We provided money for cold frames, soil, and worm castings, Webster has their cold frame already. Marge would like a co-coordinator if we take on both schools. Pat would help, but not as a coordinator. Marge hopes some of the retired teachers will step up. The School is looking for a commitment now. This is an after school enrichment program. We will need to find out more about the school's needs. The same person is in charge of the program for Lincoln kids as well as the Webster kids.

"Got dirt" - Marge: This is a State program that encourages kids to consume more fruits &veggies through a hands on gardening experience. Gardens would be grown at

schools or daycares. MGVs would be trained to train children. There is no cost for training which is done on computer through a webinar during the day. There may be site training in Green Bay as well. They provide a manual and power point presentation. The 3-4 hours plus webinar time spent training would count as MGV education hours. Any costs could be reimbursed. Marge will pursue & work with the State. "Got Dirt" meets our mission.

Newsletter and Timekeeping: Mary had talked to Linda Tobey. Linda would like to keep up the newsletter, but doesn't want the additional responsibility of timekeeping MGV hours. She has E-mailed Mary a procedure for timekeeping. If no one present is interested, Mary will appeal to membership for a replacement. We will need someone next August.

County Fair Reimbursement: - Sue Bohn reported that vendor passes are not available this year and asked if it was appropriate to get reimbursement from the club. All agreed. It was decided to plan ahead next year. We have about 12 people volunteering. We get a break on the booth. Passes cost \$8.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door. Next year we will buy vendor passes in advance. It will be added to the Annual Calendar.

Education committee: - Roy Anne handed out information for WIMGA grants. MGVs are encouraged to look for a grant. Examples were given. See Wish list/ideas sheet. Roy Anne asked members for input. Grant applications are due Oct 1. Discussion took place.

- Some of the Educational grants are more in tune with our mission.
- We could buy our own equipment and signage rather than seek a grant for this.
- A water tank for the Sherman Road Community Gardens...discussion. Nick will be looking for a subcontractor. Not an item for this grant.
- Resources for plant advisors. Interactive DVDs were suggested. Empower people to solve their own horticulture problems through research. A lot of calls and e-mails come in. We could set up a computer station for people or a resource library? Nick will check into resources.
- Christine Ann Center - Roy Anne will investigate. The garden has been well received.
- Speaker - Engelbreitsen. Renegade gardener.

Roy Anne will investigate more and give a presentation at the September Business meeting. MGVs were encouraged to think of other ideas.

Basic Training Classes: Nick needs help for the August 10th meeting. An article was in the Oshkosh Northwestern, but no one is signed up at this point. He will contact Dorothy to see if there has been interest at the Farmer's Market. Discussion followed. Announcements went out this week. Books need to be ordered by August 15th. The meeting for registration is August 10th. We will not do the class for less than 12 people. If only a few are interested, they could be directed to another county for classes. We need to get the word out.

Education issues: Discussion took place on whether classes should be in the spring or fall. Hour sheets in September would show if volunteers are able to get their hours in on

time. Nick prefers fall. It may be possible to move business meetings to Wednesdays at 5:30 with classes to follow at 6:30 to involve new MGVs specifically on September 9, October 14, and November 11. Project sign-up could follow the November classes.

Lists of participants from this year's trips should be turned in to Nick for prospective class participants. We need to do what we can to drum up new MGVs. Moved and seconded, Baeten/Ruedinger to move Business meetings in September, October and November to Wednesdays. Motion carried.

Changes to SOPs: Roy Anne developed changes for the education section of the SOPs. Rather than run the education classes, we would be an aide as requested. Roy Anne asked if others had ideas.

A new copier is coming next week for the UWEX office. We will have a master gardener code. We get billed once a year for the copies we make.

Other New Business:

Buckstaff Observatory: Mark Furgeson had approached Mary regarding the possibility of MGV involvement in a new project that would resurrect the Buckstaff Observatory located at N. Main St. and Allen Ave. in Oshkosh. See handout. Mark is in the process of forming a non-profit foundation for the Observatory. He has talked with the Oshkosh Community Foundation, and others. He would like to see an MG on the Buckstaff Observatory Board to work on the revitalization of the grounds. As he has not achieved non-profit status at this time, his proposal may be premature. He is looking for an indication of interest. Mary had agreed to bring it up at our Board meeting. No action was taken.

- New Banner - Sue Bohn suggested we purchase a new banner for under \$100.
- Promote classes!
- Pictures of the Rushford project are on display at the fair booth. Do a garden walk next year??
- Any volunteers for next Monday?

Meeting adjourned...8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baeten