

Minutes of September 3, 2009, Board Meeting

Members in attendance: Mary Wiedenmeier, Kathy Daniels, Alice Graf, Steve Schueler, Linda Werner, Audrey Ruedinger, Ken Hawk, Roy Anne Moulton, Marge Menacher, Stan Meyer, Sue Bohn, Bob Potter and Nick Schneider.

Member Excused: Linda Baeten

Special Guest: Pat Behm

The meeting was called to order at 6:10PM

The Treasurer's Report was given by Alice Graf indicating a balance of all accounts as of August 31, 2009, as follows:

Cash on Hand	\$	100.00
Checking Account	\$	9,839.50
CD (Renewal Date 8/22/09)	\$	5,000.00
Total All Accounts 8/31/09	\$	14,939.50

No secretary's report due to absence of Linda Baeten but minutes were in the August newsletter.

Old Business:

Convention

Mary & Kathy will be going and will handle the Master Gardener table on Saturday.

Membership Survey

Sue had sent out a copy of the format that they used a couple of years ago. She will re-send it to the full board so that everyone can get an idea of what we'd like to have on a survey for current members. This information could be used to set up an agenda for future classes, etc.

Fair Awards

The awards were not done this year as there was no contact made by the 4-H clubs. Parkview did not enter arrangements as they have in the past due to the road construction and participants didn't want to give up their arrangements but rather just enjoy them. Once SOP's are completed hopefully this will be on the agenda to follow-up much earlier than fair time. Nick feels that there may be over-kill with awards and such for participants and that this should be about the skills experience not the awards. We will need to re-visit this item at a future board meeting and come to a conclusion on how we will handle.

Certifications/Hours

We have received comments from new members indicating that they had a very hard time getting in their volunteer hours due to working during the day and that no contact was made by Project Leads for projects that they had signed up for during a class presentation. We had

discussion that maybe we should encourage project leads to have lead off meetings during late winter to kick off their project and give participants a chance to get to know others that will be on their project. We also discussed that just attending meetings (7 monthly meetings at a minimum of 2 hours each) would give them 14 hours.

New Business:

New Project-Oshkosh Area Humane Society

Mary had conversation with Joni Geiger of the Humane Society and they have a tribute memorial garden that needs a lot of work. It's in the beginning stages and could use some design work and maintenance. She wanted to see if we felt that it was a project that we would like to consider. Bob Potter serves on this Board and said that it is viewed by the Community and would be great exposure for our organization. Mary will bring it forward in the spring for formal approval.

Washington School Garden Project

Marge Menacher reported that there is a large area on the southeast side of the playground which has been worked up but hasn't been taken care of and has buckthorn and weeds. It measures 30 x 60 and has wood chips spread around. There is another area that is gravel based and has access to water. We would need materials for a raised bed (to raise vegetables), rain barrel, small instruments for the children to use. The principal is excited that someone is interested in working in this area. Pat Behm has agreed to co-chair this event with Marge. This project definitely meets the criteria of our organization. Marge would like to make a presentation at next week's meeting to get some more volunteers to assist with cleanup yet this fall.

Hour & Time Keeper

This is Linda Tobey's last year to do this job. Bruce Abraham has volunteered to do the hours and Dawn Kent is willing to do the membership along with being our historian. Jane Kuhn will do the "What Am I" article for the newsletter.

Signs Found & other items

Nick found a number of wooden signs (Master Gardener Project) in a cabinet in the garage. There is also a small box of plant labels. He also found tarps and fertilizer. Contact Nick Schneider in the spring if you're interested in any of these items.

Education Committee

The education committee met last week and finalized the grant requests.

\$100-Habitat for Humanity for plant materials and education.

\$250-interactive CD's for the Plant Advisory Office

\$400-One Day seminar to be held the end of February or March

Key note speaker with a number of other speakers throughout the day.

Consideration is being made for a trip to Ball Horticulture in Chicago the first week of August trip Friday, August 6 and make it a 2-day trip.

Advance Classes: held via telephone with power point presentation. There would be \$150 charge to host and we would need to decide by September 16 if we're going to do it. Our charge would be \$15.00 for individual classes. Classes would run from 5:45-9:00PM. There's a potential conflict with board/membership meetings 6 of the 12 nights of these classes. Nick will check with Outagamie and Fond du Lac to see if they will be doing these classes so that we would have an alternate site.

Next weeks Master Gardeners class will be held at the Paine-Sept 9 on Woody Ornamentals.

67 people are certified of which only 13 new members were certified. Discussion was made to send out a postcard (invitation type) to all members to let them know that even if they didn't get in all of their hours, they can still be a member of this organization. We also discussed emphasizing attendance at meetings and how those hours do count towards your certification. We will send this card to only those members that didn't certify. Mary will work with Nick on this project.

Purchase Another Banner

Kathy had brought up last month about the prospect of purchasing another banner. 2' x 6' vinyl banner in one-color is \$60; add \$20 for an additional color. Badger State Industries had done our other banner and it was suggested that we contact them to see what it would cost to duplicate the one that we have. Stan Meyer made a motion to get another banner; 2nd by Audrey Ruedinger. Passed.

Awards Dinner

Bridgewood in Neenah is booked again for this years dinner which will be held on Tuesday, Dec 1st - 5:00PM-Refreshments/6:00PM-Dinner/7:00PM-Awards
Roy Anne suggested that we check out Ridgeway Country Club also.

Other New Business:

Golden Trowel Award: Nominations needed for this award. Stan Meyer will head up this committee and will find other members to assist him with this committee. The nomination committee for the Golden recipients.

Kathy, Mary and Nick have talked and would like to have a planning board meeting on December 8.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

Next business meeting Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 6:15PM - Coughlin Center
Next Board meeting Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 6:00PM - Coughlin Center