

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
TUESDAY October 19, 2022, 6:00 PM **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**
ROOM A COUGHLIN CENTER

Attending: Ed Dombrowski, Sue Egner, Deb Butch, Kathy Procknow, Jean Reed, Valerie Stabenow, Linda Werner, Ruth Retzlaff, Invitations extended to Kathy Schultz, Linda Loker Anne Murphy, Deb Voyles and WCMGA Membership

Ed called meeting to order at: 6 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

All

Remove item c. on new business. Jerry Robak has an announcement to make during volunteer opportunities. Agenda was approved with 2 above changes.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Secretary's Report

J. Reed

Board minutes from the September 6 meeting are posted to the web site. Jean has a copy printed out if anyone wants to read them immediately.

b. Treasurer's Report

D. Butch, K. Procknow

No expenses or disbursements for September. Ending checkbook balance is \$4,299.31, cash on hand is \$100.00 for a total of all accounts at \$4,399.31. The scholarship check did clear the bank just short of the 6 month limit.

c. Committee Reports

1. Education Committee

V. Stabenow

All education opportunities are posted on the web site. If you note any opportunities let Valerie and Linda know so they can check it out. Post your hours on ORS as no assistance will be available on December 31, 2022.

d. Volunteer Opportunities

D. Butch, K. Procknow

Deb does not have any new information from what was reported last month. Deb will check with the organizations. Jerry Robak has an opportunity for us. Neenah Historical Society was looking for a Master Gardener to volunteer an hour of work-time for their fundraiser/silent auction. The question was raised as to whether MGs can volunteer time for that auction. Jerry Robak stated he was aware that Program Office policy is that Master Gardeners can no longer go to people's homes/private property for consulting. Valerie Stabenow also stated that there may be an issue with "paying for Master Gardener time", which also may be against State Program office policy. She will contact the MG Program office to double-check. Also there will be a garden cleanup at the Octagon House/Neenah Historical Society at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 29, 2022.

e. Extension Update

V. Stabenow

Madisen, If anyone has not finished their continuing education hours, there are plenty of opportunities on the Wisconsin Horticulture website. Green Thumb courses are on-going right now.

Give a shout out to the plant health advisor group. Thanks to everyone who volunteers, if you want to join the group next year you are welcome. Madisen stated Extension will have a gardening opportunity for a demonstration plot next spring and she would love to have Master Gardeners assist. Valerie asked if Plant Health Advisors can work out of the office next spring again and Madisen said yes, they are welcome to come into the office or work from home. Madisen can arrange for virtual training with UW staff (i.e., Brian Hudleson, Liesch, etc.)

Madisen gave an update on extensions mask requirements. Legally they cannot require people to wear masks. But it is really nice when we can wear the masks as we have immune compromised people in our group,

f. WIMGA Report

K. Procknow

NHS has sent in for a WIMGA grant for the Neenah Sesquicentennial. The question was raised regarding since we are no longer tax exempt will a grant be taxable. Kathy asked and it was suggested that we should consult an accountant. WIMGA stated they only write the checks to the MG organization. We should ask WIMGA what their take is on this. We need to consult with an accountant regarding this issue (grants, dues, sales, do we pay taxes on this stuff).

g. Communication

Board

Oshkosh Area Community Foundation letter received by Ed. He passed around for everyone to read.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Transition Discussion (Q and A)

Board/Membership

This is the last meeting of the old board and we will be transitioning to the new advisory team. They will meet prior to the March business meeting and meet in August before the September business meeting. Business meetings in March and September and social meetings in December and June. No assigned meeting dates, times, or location. The meeting teams can choose where they have their meetings/events. If we meet here (at Coughlin Center) it is free, if we go elsewhere, it will cost. We can meet in people's houses and do not have to meet here at the Coughlin to meet. You can count your time as MG volunteer hours. December meeting: Sue Forbes, Sandra Dennis, Mary Weidenmeier; March meeting: Anne Murphy, Kim Willman, Kathy Daniels; June meeting: Donna Kudlas, Jane Kuhn, Sue Egnor, Vicki Daniels, Ruth Retzlaff, Renee Donner, Bob Potter; September meeting: Mary Bossert, Jenny Breining, Lil Hansche. Linda suggested that maybe we can have a January meeting since December is coming up too fast. Are the two business meetings still going to have an educational component to them? Linda stated yes, that is the intent. A listing of the new structure is attached to these minutes.

b. WIMGA Dues/value to WCMGA/fees

V. Stabenow

Valerie wrote the program office regarding who is coming out of the training programs. They are working on who to share information with and probably won't come out until 2nd quarter of next year. Valerie is recommending that we continue our membership in

WIMGA. That we ask our members to pay the \$5 as we are now on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Jane Kuhn moved that we continue belonging to WIMGA and pay the \$5 dues each, Jerry Robak seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Ed called the motion, the motion carried.

Deby Voyles and Valerie will work on creating a form to send out to the membership.

c. Liability Insurance Board

If we want to work at the Farmer's Market, we need liability insurance. Kathy Procknow said that any liability insurance will cover volunteers. Deby Voyles stated that we do not have the type of liability insurance that they needed. For most events the owner of the property has the liability (Coughlin, LaSure's, etc.). If we decide to have educational events, we can do a one-day insurance. Get a professional risk assessment by a professional person, not a salesperson. Or have an accountant or lawyer do the assessment. Madisen is going to check the possibility if Extension would cover the liability cost for the Farmer's Market.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Access to Community First Board

Kathy Procknow and Deb Butch are the current acting treasurers. Deby Voyles is the new treasurer and we need to have another person listed on the account. Should Deby be the signatory and have another member of the advisory team be the signer. Ruth Retzlaff will be the other signer on the account.

b. How to track members V. Stabenow
Covered above.

~~c. December social A. Murphy~~

Anne asked what the rules were for sending out the newsletter. Madisen said there are some rules relating to emails, there needs to be an unsubscribe on certain types of emails but not on others.

5. ADJOURN

Jean Reed moved that we adjourn the meeting and Linda Werner seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

REMINDER: WEARING OF MASKS IS STILL IN EFFECT

New WCMGA Leadership Structure

Below is the new leadership list.

Advisory Team

- Linda Loker
- Kathy Schultz
- Ruth Retzlaff
- Deby Voyles, Treasurer
- Jean Reed/Anne Murphy, Secretary(s)

Communications Team

- Jean Reed, Website
- Anne Murphy, Facebook, Newsletter
- Deb Butch, Community Partner Liaison
- Kathy Procknow, WIMGA Representative

Education Team

- Valerie Stabenow
- Linda Werner

Meeting Team

December/January Social

- Sue Forbes
- Sandra Dennis
- Mary Weidenmeier

March Business Meeting

- Anne Murphy
- Kim Willman
- Kathy Daniels

June Picnic

- Donna Kudlas
- Jane Kuhn
- Sue Egner
- Vicki Daniels
- Ruth Retzlaff
- Renee Donner
- Bob Potter

September Business Meeting

- Mary Bossert
- Jenny Breining
- Lil Hansche