

Master Gardeners Board Meeting 11-3-09

Present were: Mary Wiedenmeier, Alice Graf, Stan Meyer, Bob Potter, Ken Hawk, Roy Anne Moulton, Linda Baeten, Nick Schneider, Audrey Ruedinger, Sue Bohn, Linda Werner.

Excused: Kathy Daniels

Treasurer's Report

Alice had a handout of the October report. As of October 31, 2009 we had \$100 cash, \$13,166.78 in the checking account, and \$5,072.34 in a CD for a total of \$18,339.12. It was mentioned that some projects have not asked for their allotted funds. Ken reported that the Prairie Garden did not need funds this year.

Secretary's Report

The minutes are posted on the Website. There was a correction. The Awards Banquet will take place at Bridgewood, not Ridgewood.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Report: Mary Wiedenmeier had written our annual report, following the state criteria and sent it to Susan Mahr. (see handout). Susan Mahr did some editing, but was very pleased with the report. Some of the highlights that were mentioned in the report included tomato plant adoption, and food pantry donations from the Shared Harvest project, trial gardens and others.

Nick mentioned the Sherman Road Community gardens ended up with a lot of produce being abandoned at the end of the year. Also some of the donated produce was not handled well at the food pantry. He plans to encourage people to donate more "durable produce" next year. We could also do some education at the food pantry to inform people how to use vegetables. He may utilize UWEX employees who are hired to do this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation: Mary read Steve Schueler's resignation letter. Steve is leaving due to personal reasons. We would have a one year vacancy for Vice President for the remainder of Steve's term. Ivan Placko has volunteered. No one else stepped forward.

November Elections:

- Audrey's term as a Member at Large is up for renewal. This is a 3-year term. Both Audrey and Linda Tobey are interested in serving.
- President and Treasurer's positions are up for renewal. These are 2-year terms. At this point, Mary and Kathy are willing to do another term. Alice is also willing to do another term.
- The Chair of the Education Committee also serves on the Board, as long as they are Chair of the Committee.

Discussion on Board memberships took place. Mary asked Roy Anne to explain the Board memberships at the next Business meeting. Linda Baeten will develop a ballot form for the elections to be held at the November Membership meeting.

Procedures for filling Board vacancies will be on the agenda for the Board's December Planning Session. Linda Werner and Sue Bohn's terms as past officers will be due.

Fall Classes:

Three classes are left. An e-mail went out to the Project Leads to attend classes to talk about their projects and gain new volunteers. There was discussion regarding forming a new committee to help spruce up the Website. Some of the new members may be interested. Alice is going to contact Jean Reed to set up a possible meeting.

Education Committee:

- Roy Anne asked Marge Menacher and Audrey to do a Propagation Class. Pots, soil, and rooting compound will all be supplied by Nick.
- Lawanda won the "Name the Garden Event" contest. The event will be "Winter Escape – Summer Dreams". Lawanda will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate.
 - Save the Date postcards are scheduled to go out November 16th.
 - A tri-fold brochure is also being developed.
 - The Department of Corrections will do the printing.
 - Diane Lott is compiling a mailing list.
 - A media blitz will be in January.
 - People will be able to register on our website.
 - The cost for the event is \$35. Fond du Lac will also be featuring Melinda Myers a month later for \$35. Waupun will also be featuring her in April.
 - Sponsors have not been eager to contribute, however Heavy Critters agreed, and Kitz and Pfeil will donate some door prizes.
- Roy Anne would like to put together a Marketing Packet for the future, and asked Nick to give a schedule of the Fall Classes.
- Roy Anne will be speaking at the WPT Garden Expo in Madison in February. She will be doing a session on pruning.
- We were approached to speak at the Winneconne Family Fair on February 27th, the date of Winter Escape-Summer Dreams. We had to decline.
- Audrey is checking into getting interviews with Kathy Kuene and WPR.

Awards Dinner:

Mary asked for help passing out the awards. Door prizes will be held to 20 and will include such items as gas cards and gift cards.

Other New Business:

- Roy Anne brought up the amount of work involved in preparing and putting on the Garden Event this February, and asked if the Board would agree to allow the Education Committee members free admission to the event. The Board agreed by consensus.
- Dawn Kent is compiling the MG hours and will need to get them to Julie Grundy before the awards dinner.
- We will need new Project descriptions for the new Membership books.

- Thanks goes to Julie Grundy for the Master Gardener display at the Coughlin Building.
- December Planning meeting of the Board will be on December 8th at Vitale's. There is no Membership meeting in December.
 - Set up goals for 2010
 - Nick will provide SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis.
 - Development of the Annual Calendar
 - Develop a survey of the membership to determine interests and projects. The last one was in 2006. Will do the survey after the February 27th Garden Event.
- Alice had a sample pen that we could use for advertising that costs \$.49. We could hand them out at events such as the Farmer's Market, the Home and Garden Show, the booth at the Paine Festival of Spring.

At the November Business meeting we will be having a program on Bee Keeping. There will also be an explanation of the voting process, and the vote itself. The Master Gardener class will also be able to vote. Ballots will be given before class. Secretary, Linda Baeten will count the ballots at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned....7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baeten