

# Henrico Master Gardener Association Board Meeting

Minutes: December 2, 2009

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Ann Dutton at 1:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** The previous month's minutes were sent to and approved by Board members and committee chairs.

## Reports from Committees and Officers

**Treasurer:** Barry Hayes reported that we have \$3,422.18 in the checking account. After recent expenses were paid, the Harvest Fair profit is about \$1248.49.

**1st Vice President:**

**2nd Vice President:** Grace Harrison reported that her committee met yesterday and are working to confirm several speakers for advanced training. Grace asked about the policy for purchasing speaker gifts. The Board responded that the Association budget is \$500 for gifts.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Theresa Hawkes sent cards to the family of Ann Boland and to Betty Gillelan.

**Master Gardening Training:** Ann Dutton reported for Jim Smith that we received 42 applications for MG training and that the committee will meet Dec. 3rd to select the 23 candidates for this year's class. One trainee from last year was awarded a spot because of health issues last year. Each potential applicant will receive a call from a committee member before a final offer to the class is made. The calls will reinforce the MG requirements and responsibilities and will be completed by December 9th. The committee developed the questions for use in the interview so that all interviews are consistent. The committee will meet on December 10th to make final selections. After that final letters will be sent to successful applicants.

The committee still needs experienced MGs to be facilitators for training sessions. Lisa will send a mass e-mail to request volunteers for facilitation.

**Helpline:** Gwen Hipp reported that interns have completed their helpline hours and that there is no more scheduling for the year.

## **Communications:**

**Service, Recognition and Historical:** Joyce Brannon shared a couple of newspaper articles about master gardeners. Lisa Sanderson added that we are currently over 11,000 volunteer hours and more is to be expected through the end of the year. This is at least 2000 hours more than last year at the same time. We have one master gardener who has over 300 hours of work time this year.

## **S.M.A.R.T. Lawns:**

### **JMG:**

**Special Events:** Judy Burton reported that we have enough volunteers for the Maymont Flower and Garden Show. The drawing to determine final volunteers will be done December 9th and will be done by time slot. If someone can't do that time slot, they will need to trade with another MG.

### **Finance:**

**Hospitality:** Peggy Lowry reported on the menu for the December 9th reception.

### **Membership:**

### **Plant Clinics:**

**Harvest Fair:** Ann Dutton mentioned her recent newsletter article about the future of the Harvest Fair and ask the Board for comments. She submitted the letter after getting numerous questions about the future of the event.

**Extension Report:** Lisa reported that Barbara will be available at the reception to get any needed pictures so the Pictorial Directory can be printed in January.

**Old Business:** Ann Dutton mentioned the MG scholarship that we discussed at the last meeting and opened the floor for questions. There was no further discussion so a committee of Peggy Lowry, Vickie Bell, Grace Harrison and Ann will work to determine the logistics of both scholarships.

### **New Business:**

1. Ann reported that we still need someone for publicity.
2. At the November 19th Association meeting, Dawn Lerch presented a need to endow the State MG Coordinator position at Virginia Tech. After this presentation, a MG suggested to Ann that we use Association funds to help endow the fund and potentially have individual MGs match the Association donation. Lisa Sanderson suggested an alternative plan which was to reverse the original suggestion and have the Association match individual donations up to a certain dollar amount. The Board also discussed a straight donation without a matching component.

Mary Vetrovec suggested that we create an article for the newsletter to highlight the impact of the position on our organization and then to adopt Lisa's suggestion. She also suggested that we could challenge other MG Associations to match our gift. After discussion, Mary Vetrovec moved that the Board donate \$1000 in 2010 and \$200/year for the next 5 years help endow the State position and that we encourage individual master gardeners to contribute. Her motion also added that we should strive to educate the Association on the importance of the position with a newsletter article. Grace seconded

the motion and the Board approved the motion. Ann suggested that we have the article, with giving forms, available for the April newsletter.

**In Attendance:** Vickie Bell, Joyce Brannon, Judy Burton, Ann Dutton, Grace Harrison, Theresa Hawkes, Barry Hayes, Gwen Hipp, Peggy Lowry, Lisa Sanderson, John Sartin, Mary Vetovec

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m..

Vickie Bell, Recording Secretary