

Henrico Master Gardener Association Board Meeting

Minutes: November 4, 2009

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Ann Dutton at 1:02 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 \$3,482.28 in the checking account. After expenses were paid, the Harvest Fair profit was over \$1200.00. One of the Association's CD's, in the amount of \$2041.88, recently matured and was rolled over.

1st Vice President: Ann reported for Erica Gilliam. She reminded everyone about the trip to Colesville nursery on November 11th and that the November Association meeting on the 18th will feature the head horticulturist at the Governor's Mansion.

2nd Vice President: Grace Harrison reported that her committee is still working on advanced training for next year.

Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Hawkes sent a card to Carol Colby who lost an old friend and to Genne Johnston who lost her father-in-law.

Master Gardening Training: Ann Dutton commended the committee for developing interview questions to interview MG training applicants. Jim Smith reported that the closing date for receiving applications is November 20th and the committee will meet on December 3rd to decide on potential trainees to call. Calls will be made the first week of December. The committee still needs experienced MGs to be mentors and they also need volunteers to be facilitators for training sessions. A mass e-mail will be sent to ask for mentors.

Helpline: Ann Dutton, Peggy Lowry, Judy Burton and Lisa Sanderson reported on the meeting held to discuss recent helpline coverage issues. Some of the recommendations include:

- a buddy system so if you can't make it, you have someone to call as a back-up.
- having only one session on some days.
- allowing interns to sign up for more than 5 days to ensure that they have hours.
- having other work for volunteers to do so they feel that they are contributing.

There was discussion about whether interns felt comfortable answering calls and whether there should be additional training. After discussion, most Board members felt that the two training sessions with experienced volunteers were adequate to train the interns.

Communications:

Service, Recognition and Historical: Joyce Brannon reported that she has 27 MG albums and has completed a Harvest Fair album. She continues to encourage all MGs to turn in time sheets.

S.M.A.R.T. Lawns: Teddy Martin reported that we had 72 clients for the season with over 14 acres of lawns measured.

JMG: Pat Baskind reported for Faye Derkits that they recently visited John Marshall School to work with special needs children.

Special Events: Judy Burton reported that she will have slips ready for people who want to volunteer for Maymont in November. The drawing will be done in December and will be done by time slot. If someone can't do that time slot, they will need to trade with another MG.

The committee will begin work on the March Home Show in February.

Finance:

Hospitality:

Membership:

Plant Clinics:

Harvest Fair: Jack Kelzer reported on the second committee meeting to discuss the 2010 Harvest Fair type activity. The committee concluded that any event must be simplified, aligned with the program emphasis of Cooperative Extension, planned to fit the available resources and should anticipate an attendance of 300-400 people. Jack reviewed the 18 recommendations that were made by the committee and the Board discussed several of those recommendations.

The key issues discussed by the Board included the need for a clear event mission statement, the recommendation to hold the event in the spring and rename the event, and the recommendation to target the under-served residents of eastern Henrico County. The Board also discussed some of the other local events that have been successful, especially the annual Goochland event.

Barry Hayes reported for a team (Barry, Marty and Dorthea) who visited four potential locations for an event - Dorey Park, Confederate Hills, Armour House and Deep Run Park.

The Board discussion resulted in Jack suggesting that members of the Board meet with Extension to discuss goals and the mission statement for 2010. The Board agreed and a meeting will be scheduled. After the meeting with Extension, a team consisting of

Ann Dutton, Pat Baskind, Vickie Bell, Grace Harrison and Barry Hayes, (Jack will act as consultant) will meet to begin the planning.

Extension Report: Lisa reported that there is an opportunity for the Association to apply for funds from the County of Henrico by November 20th. Lisa suggested that we apply for funds for “Gardens growing Families”. The Association decided to pursue funding.

Old Business: Ann showed color and black & white drafts of the pictorial directory. The extension office can produce the directories in-house but the Association would pay for cartridges to print. The Board agreed that we should print the color directory. Judy Burton moved that the Association pay for the printing of the directory. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Business:

Jim Smith mentioned that the Tree Smart training was completed. A plan will be developed on how to market this service to clients. The service would be similar to S.M.A.R.T. lawns.

Ann asked the Board to appoint a nominating committee chairperson. The committee should start working on the office of President and follow with other positions. Starting the committee now may help to choose presidential candidates before we choose a person to lead the new event committee. Ann recommends Theresa Hawkes to lead the committee and Carol Colby has volunteered to serve on the committee. The Board approved this recommendation.

Ann recommended that the Association offer a scholarship to either a prospective horticulture student or to a county resident who is willing to work with citizens on community gardens. The scholarship for the community worker would be to master gardener training. Vickie Bell volunteered to help develop logistics on scholarships. Judy Burton moved to set aside \$1000.00 for educational purposes and Grace Harrison seconded the motion. The board approved with a show of hands.

In Attendance: Vickie Bell, Pat Baskind, Joyce Brannon, Judy Burton, Ann Dutton, Grace Harrison, Theresa Hawkes, Barry Hayes, Jack Kelzer, Peggy Lowry, Teddy Martin, Lisa Sanderson, John Sartin, Jim Smith, John Simmonds

The meeting was adjourned at 2: 35 p.m..

Vickie Bell, Recording Secretary