

Henrico Master Gardener Association Board Meeting

Minutes: March 3, 2010

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Ann Dutton at 11:35 a.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 \$3,238.47 in the checking account and that there was minimal activity over the last month.

1st Vice President: Erica Gilliam reported that Beth Burrell will be the guest speaker in April and will speak on combining colors and textures for a four season garden.

2nd Vice President: Grace Harrison reported that advanced training is going well. The meeting on mosquitoes with Randy Buchanan was postponed because of weather. Brent Heath's presentation on bulbs was a huge success and we filled the room. The naked tree ID class was attended by 35 people. Today's presentation is Andy Hankins speaking on vegetable diseases.

Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Hawkes reported that Claude Seal is in the hospital and Pat Greene will have knee-replacement surgery. Thank you notes were sent to recent speakers.

Master Gardening Training: Anne reported for Jim Smith that the intern training is going well and that mid-term exams were distributed and are due back by March 4th. They will be graded by the committee and returned by March 8th. Len Morrow's propagation class that was cancelled because of weather has been rescheduled for April 1.

Helpline: Gwen Hipp reported that the helpline is open. Interns are slowly turning in their sheets to schedule shifts. Veteran MGs are needed to help fill holes in the schedule and to train the interns.

Communications:

Service, Recognition and Historical: Joyce Brannon reported that she is getting a lot of time sheets and that the interns are doing a great job turning in sheets. Joyce raised a concern that some interns are submitting time for items like studying for the exam, taking the exam and making coffee. Lisa Sanderson will remind the class that they do not get hours for these kind of activities.

S.M.A.R.T. Lawns: Lisa Sanderson reported that the 2010 program has not started but brochures have gone out.

JMG: Faye Derkits reported that the program at St. Catherine's school is starting on March 19. Also they have a pre-school event this month.

Special Events: Judy Burton reported that the Maymont Flower and Garden Show went smoothly, including getting volunteers into the event. The Richmond Home and Garden Show slots are not full and few veterans have signed up. Volunteers will be requested at this afternoon's meeting. Grace Harrison added that we have four MGs speaking at the Home Show. We have not received notification of some of the routine spring events like the Stranges' weekend.

Finance:

Hospitality:

Membership: Beverly Cochrane reported that we have 97 members. She will speak to the interns on March 23 to talk about the Association and membership.

Plant Clinics:

Master Gardener 2011 event: Ann Dutton reported that she and Lisa will be sending out a date for a planning meeting in the near future.

Extension Report: Lisa Sanderson reported that Angela has been working on the pictorial directory and that it will be completed soon. The directory will be printed in color and Lisa passed a copy around the room.

Lisa purchased binders for Officers and Board Members to use for their by-laws and job descriptions. The Board was reminded that we should pass on these materials to our replacement when we leave a job. Peggy Lowry recommended that we each go through the books to get more familiar with the material and to ensure that it is accurate.

Gardens Growing Families has been advertised and a press release will be on channel 17 soon. Most gardeners are coming back this year and we have requests from people in other areas.

Old Business:

1. Ann Dutton reported that the Scholarship committee will meet soon.
2. Ann mentioned that we still need someone for publicity. This person should be someone with expertise in this area and someone who could devote all or most of their MG hours to publicity.

New Business:

1. Theresa Hawkes gave the nominating committee report. Sandra Walton is being nominated for 1st Vice President and Barry Hayes will be nominated for the Association President. Doug Green will be nominated to take Barry's position as Treasurer. The Association will vote at the May meeting.

2. Grace Harrison mentioned that the Tree Smarts program is in the works and posters, etc will be done.

3. Ann Dutton opened a discussion on training and meeting sign-in sheets for veteran MGs. To ensure the integrity of hours reported, Ann recommended that members record the hours present at an event along with their signature. If no time is recorded, the MG will not get credit for the hours. Judy Burton moved and Theresa Hawkes seconded that we begin requiring the recording of hours in attendance in addition to a signature. The Board approved the motion.

Lisa Sanderson also reminded members that they do not need to repeat hours on the yellow sheets if they have signed in for training or events. This practice creates duplicate work for Joyce who is tracking the hours.

4. Ann mentioned the Blooming Bucks program sponsored by Brent and Becky's bulbs. Barry Hayes will complete and submit the required form and will be prepared to discuss at a future meeting. After submitting the form for Blooming Bucks, the association will receive a percentage of orders submitted by our members.

3. Ann asked Beverly Cochrane and Mary Vetovec to spearhead the task of getting Association members to donate to the State MG Coordinator's position at Virginia Tech. The board previously approved a gift and recommended that we encourage members to match the donation. Action on this work will be postponed pending the State's decision on budget cuts and the State Coordinator's role.

In Attendance: Pat Baskind, Vickie Bell, Joyce Brannon, Judy Burton, Beverly Cochrane, Faye Derkits, Ann Dutton, Erica Gilliam, Grace Harrison, Theresa Hawkes, Barry Hayes, Gwen Hipp, Peggy Lowry, Lisa Sanderson

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Vickie Bell, Recording Secretary