

Henrico Master Gardener Association Board Meeting

Minutes: May 5, 2010

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Ann Dutton at 1:05 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 \$3,143.89 in the checking account.

1st Vice President: Erica Gilliam reported that 24 people went on the trip to the Capital yesterday and that the trip was excellent. The visit included a tour of the first floor of the Governor's mansion and a trip into the Gillette garden.

The Association will visit Mike Lockett's garden on May 10th at 1:00. If you are attending, please do not go to the house - it is not part of the tour.

Upcoming meetings include the annual plant swap on May 12th and 42 people are signed up to attend. June is the annual meeting. In July, a representative from VDOT, Johnnie Wallin, will speak on their wildflower program and in August Kim Singhas, a Hanover master gardener, will speak on bees. In September, we will have a talk on the Galapagos Islands from Pat Remley.

2nd Vice President: Grace Harrison reported that we had a great year with advanced training and that she will start to plan for the new year soon.

Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Hawkes reported that Deborah Pitts was ill but is now doing well. Peggy Lowry mentioned that Betty Gilliland is in the hospital and very ill.

Master Gardening Training:

Helpline: Lisa reported that the helpline is going well.

Plant clinics:

Communications:

Service, Recognition and Historical: Joyce received several time sheets today with no names. Judy Burton suggested that when veteran MGs are working with interns on the helpline, that the veteran could train them on filling out time sheets.

S.M.A.R.T. Lawns: Teddy Martin reported that the teams are set and that we have about 12 requests to date.

Scholarship Program: Ann Dutton reported that the Scholarship committee met today, May 5th. The committee discussed providing a scholarship to someone who is currently working in the “*Gardens Growing Families*” program who could become a local expert for the other gardeners. However, we realized that there is considerable MG presence in that garden. The committee decided to postpone the selection of a scholarship candidate until the new community garden opens (see the Extension report below).

Association Bus Trips: A bus trip is scheduled for May 19th to Monticello but we currently have only 10 people signed up to attend. After discussing our options for the trip, Barry moved that we postpone the use of board money for a bus trip until the fall, Erica Gilliam seconded the motion and the board approved the motion. Barry Hayes will contact Flo Grigg who had been organizing the trip and will also contact the bus company to see if they will accept a postponement. If not, we will probably owe them a \$100 cancellation fee.

It is possible that the people who have signed up for the trip could still go on their own. Ann Dutton will survey the group to see who is still interested. However, fewer attendees might mean higher cost for the tour.

JMG: Ann Dutton reported for Faye Derkits that they have done 14 visits at 7 schools including Ridge Elementary, Short Pump, Colonial Trail, St. Catherine’s, Kindercare Day Care, St Matthew’s Episcopal preschool and Three Chopt Presbyterian preschool.

Special Events:

Finance:

Hospitality: Peggy Lowry reported that four people are lined up for refreshments for the Annual Meeting.

Membership:

Master Gardener Education Fair: Ann Dutton reported that a committee of 16 people have met twice to plan the education fair. The current model is to partner with an established event and use that event for educational opportunities. Possible partners are the Maymont Herb Festival and the Lewis Ginter plant sale. Through MGs who volunteer at Lewis Ginter, we have learned that Lewis Ginter would be glad to have us as a partner. This could include two days in both the spring and fall at their plant sales. Our component could be a demonstration, lectures, videos, etc. Erica Gilliam mentioned that we could partner with an existing children’s booth.

Extension Report: Lisa Sanderson reported that there is land available to start new “*Gardens Growing Families*” garden plots off Laburnum Ave. If the land is suitable for gardening, the Extension Office will start a new garden. There are three plots of land that are not together but close to each other.

Lisa also suggested that we consider beginning face-to-faces interviews for intern candidates before they are accepted into the program. This could help to choose people who are truly committed to the MG program.

Lisa reported that we will have the pictorial directory at the June meeting.

Old Business: 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: Erica Gilliam reported that we should be receiving a check from the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs for our school/ junior master gardener programs. It was incorrectly going to the 4H program and now the money will come to the Henrico County Master Gardener Association.

In Attendance: Vickie Bell, Joyce Brannon, Judy Burton, Ann Dutton, Erica Gilliam, Grace Harrison, Theresa Hawkes, Barry Hayes, Peggy Lowry, Lisa Sanderson and Teddy Martin

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Vickie Bell, Recording Secretary