

The Whatcom County Master Gardener Foundation

Board Minutes, July 6, 2017

Attended by: President – Harriet Arkley - 1st Vice President, Kay Fast - 2nd VP, Barbara Schickler - 2nd VP, Kathleen Bander – Secretary, Kathy Barrett – Treasurer, Marilyn Glenn - Member-at-Large, Barbara King - Member-at-Large, Mill Shires - MG Program Coordinator, Beth Chisholm - CSG Coordinator, Margaret Kassner - MG

Unable to attend: State Representative – Sandy Keathley

Meeting was called to order by President, Harriet Arkley at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes of the June 1st, 2017 board meeting were approved after a motion was made by Mill Shires and seconded by Kathleen Bander.

Treasure's Report

Marilyn Glenn reported that we have invested \$25,000 to set up an **Endowment** fund with Whatcom Community Foundation.

Marilyn submitted the **Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual** report.

The following account totals were reported for 30 - June - 17:

Checking - \$4932.59

Savings - \$58437.44

Greenhouse - \$16434.54

Insurance

Marilyn had contacted the Foundation's insurance agent for clarification of what our insurance covers.

The agent will review our policy, what we pay and how we're covered.

Action Item: Marilyn will report the findings at the August board meeting.

A motion was made by Mill Shires that the board approve the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded by Kay Fast. The report was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Endowment Fund update and outreach

Barbara King reported now that we have established our endowment fund, the MG membership needs to be educated about the Foundation and its purpose. She will be working with Vincent on developing a rack card. It will be two-sided with information about the MG program on one side and the Foundation on the other side. The WCF has suggested that information about the program and a picture of the foundation board would be beneficial. Barbara also mentioned that we should concentrate on branding before asking for money.

Propagation project for the New Greenhouse

Beth reported that many of the propagation starts died due to the heat of the greenhouse. The surviving plants were moved to the back room of the greenhouse and placed on the floor where it's cooler. It was felt that shade cloth could improve the situation.

Action Items: Marilyn and some of the MG interns will visit Skagit's greenhouses and see what the MGs there can share.

Signage Update

Beth Chisholm reported that the committee met and agreed on the following:

- Major "You are here" sign – mapping the grounds of Hovander
- Signs for each demonstration garden
- Plant ID signs for each garden

Outreach Update

Barbara King requested \$500.00 for lightweight tables, chairs, banners and plastic storage bins for outreach (example would be the Farmers' Market) events.

Mill Shires made a motion to approve the request for \$500.00 and Barbara Schickler seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

MG Meetings/Events Schedule

There are no changes to the remaining events of the season.

MOA with County Parks

Harriet reported that she and Beth would have an in-house meeting on July 7th prior to meeting with Parks representatives to discuss the MOA.

Monetary Support for Attending Conferences

Discussion in August will look at possible reimbursement for new MGs to attend conferences.

Action Item: Harriet will contact Sandy Keathely for more information on costs to her as State Representative.

New Business

Joint County Meeting

Harriet reported that attending the joint county meeting was very worthwhile. She said it was interesting to hear how different boards function.

Hovander Lunch

The foundation will be hosting a lunch for MGs at the Pavilion at Hovander Park on July 12th at 11:30. Foundation board members will be supplying the lunch as a thank you to all the MGs who give of their time and talent.

Annual Picnic or???

After discussion, it was agreed that there would be no annual picnic in August this year. Instead, a gala will take place in the fall to help introduce the Endowment Fund.

Butterfly Garden

Beth was contacted by the North Cascades Resource Center requesting help from MGs for a cleanup of the Butterfly Garden that was installed by MGs. No agreement was signed for maintenance to be done by MGs. Kathleen Bander has organized 3 cleaning sessions with the understanding that these were a one-off event.

Action Item: Beth will contact the center's coordinator and explain that the role of the MGs does not include maintenance of the garden.

Fall Advanced Training

Beth announced that there would be no fall training this fall. Instead, training will be held in January with the subject being "Community Gardens".

Beth also said there would be no basic training next year. The focus will instead be on strategic planning aimed on strengthening the organization.

Clinic Update

Beth announced that a new statewide clinic report form would be going into effect. The form is designed to give the state tracking information regarding the makeup of the clients in contact with the clinic, the need for pesticide information and allow the client to be contacted in the future. Many of the board members expressed concern regarding the form and client's privacy rights.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 3, 2017

