

The Whatcom County Master Gardener Foundation Board Minutes February 1, 2018

Attended by: President - Harriet Arkley, 1st VP - Barbara King, Secretary – Kathy Barrett, Members at Large – Linda Bobblett, Shelley Fishwild, Louise Granger, Victor Knox, Mill Shires. Program Coordinator – Beth Chisholm. Also attending: Master Gardeners – Judy Boxx, Margaret Kassner and David Simonson

Unable to Attend: Treasurer - Marilyn Glenn, 2nd VP - Barbara Schickler, Member at Large - Bonnie LeVan, State Representative – Sandy Keathley.

Meeting was called to order by Harriet Arkley at 10:00 am.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the January 4th, 2018 board meeting were unanimously approved following a motion from Kathy Barrett and seconded by Vic Knox.

Treasurer's Report

Marilyn Glenn submitted the **Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual** report, but in lieu of her absence she asked that we postpone approving the report until the next board meeting. It was also noted that there were no entries for the Roeder Home.

Action Items: The Roeder House numbers will be added to the budget report by Marilyn when she returns.

The board will review the January 27th Budget at the March 1st board meeting.

- **Review of Budget Records – Mill Shires**

Mill reported that the review of the 2017 Budget Records had been completed. He said that basically few errors had been found and there were few recommendations being made.

Action Item: The review will be discussed at the March board meeting.

- **Payment for MG Mug Purchase – Margaret Kassner**

It was noted that the amount of purchase for the mugs had never been formally approved. Mill Shires made a motion to approve the purchase of

the MG Mugs not to exceed \$700.00. Vic Knox seconded the motion and the board gave unanimous approval.

Mugs have been given to the Extension staff, Kathleen Bander and Kay Fast in appreciation for their work on the board and will be sold at the Training Conference on February 8th, 2018.

Old Business

MG Meetings/Event Schedule 2018

Barbara Schickler was unable to attend. Harriet noted that Karen Gilliam would be making a presentation on Plant Division on March 8th, 2018 at noon at the Extension Office classroom.

Bylaw Changes

Mill Shires reported that review of the Bylaws is continuing by the committee. They are looking at each Article and Section and how they compare with State and Federal requirements, other MG Foundations and other sources. The board is grateful for the work of the committee and realize that it is a big undertaking. Barbara King suggested that the committee bring potential major changes to the board, not minor ones.

Endowment Fund Update

Barbara King provided a draft for Action Steps. They were as follows:

- Recruit Endowment Advisory Committee
- Work with Extension to reissue MG rack card with Foundation info on the back side.
- Prepare 8.5 x 11 Endowment sheet to stand on all MG info tables; paired with a coordinating inexpensive rack card with detailed Endowment info.
- Investigate ways to expand Endowment visibility to greater Whatcom Community
- As part of redesign of Foundation webpage, add info on Endowment
- Participate in Spring Giving Day in 2018
- Send out yearly Endowment solicitation mailing to members in early November
- Participate in annual online Giving Day; Tuesday, November 27 in 2018

Signage Update

Linda Boblett reported on the status for the Signage Committee. They met in August 2017 and came up with four areas for signs within the Hovander gardens.

- **YOU ARE HERE** kiosk map for visitors, identifying MG gardens, river, Hovander house, playground, restrooms and picnic shelter
- Demo garden map, using the brochure image as a large poster format weather proof map
- Entrance sign to each demo garden with brief description of area
- Plant ID signs in all gardens

Community Outreach

Beth Chisholm reported that she now routes call from the community requesting MG involvement to Marilyn Glenn.

Lynden has been added to the MG Outreach area.

Beth mentioned that we need to change our methods for recruiting volunteers. MGs need to feel that they will be supported at venues.

Barbara King requested money for 5 vinyl signs to be used on tables at MG outreach venues. Barbara made a motion to approve the purchase of 5 vinyl MG signs for \$330.00. Louise Granger seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Action Item: Beth will order and purchase the 5 vinyl signs for use at outreach venues by MGs.

Joint County MG Foundation meeting – January 19th, 2018

Harriet Arkley reported that the Joint county meeting that she, along with Vic Knox, Marilyn Glenn, Barbara King and Mill Shires, attended was very worthwhile. There was opportunity for the different counties to ask questions of each other regarding things like insurance, outreach and diagnostic clinics for remote areas. It was agreed that all the counties have the same mission and work towards that mission in a variety of diverse ways.

New Business

Master Gardener Program Update

Beth Chisholm announced that the attendance target of 100 guests for the 22nd Annual Whatcom Gardening Conference to be held on February 8th at

Bellingham Technical College with a theme of Sustainable Gardening had been exceeded.

Beth and Chris Benedict met in January with representatives from the County Parks to discuss updating the MOA. They clarified the mission of the WSU MG program and the foundation. Beth reported on two items that were discussed: the foundation may have to pay for water at Hovander, any improvements on the Old Greenhouse are still on hold.

New Greenhouse Usage

Vic Knox has agreed to lead the New Greenhouse Maintenance and Usage Committee. The committee will study ways to use the greenhouse.

Horticulturist, Joe Delp has volunteered to be on the committee.

The Usage Committee has chosen 4 goals:

ID what might be done this year,
look at what's been done in the past
look at potential use,
develop a calendar of activities.

Revision of Foundation Website

Action Item

Harriet announced that the board will discuss the current website at the next board meeting.

Hovander and Roeder House Outreach

David Simonson suggested the idea of Sunday Afternoon Docents at Hovander. Peg Nathon agreed to coordinate with new MGs in developing a plan for these Sundays.

Shelly Fishwild reported that two events are planned for Roeder House this year. They are Renovation of an Older Garden and Water Conservation. Both will events will include a tour and Plant ID.

It was also suggested that House and Garden tours could be paired at both Hovander and Roeder. A pruning class was also suggested for both locals.

Plant Sale Meeting

Lyn Morgan-Hill will chair the Plant Sale for 2018. The first meeting is scheduled for February 26th.

Action Item

Mill Shires will attend the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mill Shires and seconded by Kathy Barrett with unanimous approval by the board.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 1st, 2018
Extension Office Classroom