

The Whatcom County Master Gardener Foundation Board Minutes

Date: October 4, 2018

Attendees: President—Harriet Arkley, 1st VP—Barbara King, Treasurer—Marilyn Glenn, Program Director—Beth Chisholm, Members at Large—Linda Boblett, Shelley Fishwild,, Bonnie, Levan, and Mill Shires. State Representative—Sandy Keathley.

Absent: Secretary—Kathy Barrett, 2nd VP—Barbara Schickler, Members at Large—Louise Granger and Victor Knox.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Shelley Fishwild mentioned that there is an error under “Roeder Home old business”. The tree mentioned was planted two years ago and the dedication ceremony for her husband on August 14, 2018 was for a plaque installed that day..Shelley Fishwild made a motion that the minutes for October 4, 2018 be approved and Mill Shires seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board.

Treasurer’s Report:

Marilyn Glenn reported that there was no change in the Profit and Loss budget of

September 2018:

Checking	\$6420.00
Savings	\$54,818.00
Greenhouse	\$13,172.00
Total Available Money	\$74,410.00

Endowment Fund:

Harriet Arkley reported that there is a \$37,902 balance in the endowment fund.

Old Business:

Agreement Between the Whatcom County Parks Department and Whatcom County Master Gardeners: Beth, Harriet, Barbara, and Vic met with parks director Mike McFarlane two months ago to come up with an agreement of understanding. **What the parks department wants:** 1. Two separate agreements, one between the master gardener foundation and another between the extension office and the parks department. 2. The parks department would also like the Master Gardener program to take over the maintenance of the sensory garden (probably not happening).

What the Master Gardener Foundation board wants: 1. Permission from the parks department ASAP to replace the old greenhouse. 2. Language in the contract that the Master Gardener Foundation board is the support group for Master Gardeners. A verbal agreement was obtained from Mike McFarlane to add our issues to the draft. The agreement should be ready by the November retreat. Liability and structures are involved. Mill Shires was especially concerned about liability insurance and how to

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present it in the bylaws. **Action Item:** Beth will check at the state level for answers concerning liability insurance.

Signage Update: Linda Boblett reported that there are still signs at Signs Plus waiting revision. **Action Item:** Beth Chisholm will call Signs Plus to see if any progress has been made on the signs. Beth displayed two posters of the "You Are Here" sign and asked board members for their input.

New Greenhouse Update: Harriet reports that tomatoes and peppers are still being harvested for the food bank.

Revision of the Foundation Website: Nothing to report at this time per Harriet.

Hovander and Roeder Home Outreach: **Hovander:** Peg Nathan would like to coordinate our docent program with the large events scheduled by the parks department. **Action Items:** Harriet Arkley will ask Peg Nathan to investigate comp for tickets so that docents are not charged an entrance fee. Harriet will also bring membership renewal forms to Hovander on Wednesdays.

Roeder Home: Shelley Fishwild reported that the Roeder team will be planting tulip and daffodil bulbs on October 8th.

Community Outreach: Nothing new to report. Beth suggested that Master Composter/Recycler events be added to the "MG Scoop".

Bylaws Update: Nothing new to report currently per Mill.

MG Meetings and Events: Harriet Arkley suggested having a general business meeting after the next Master Gardener Foundation educational class. It should be simple and last no longer than ten minutes. The Annual Awards Banquet will be Thursday, October 11th, 2018 at the YWCA from 5:30 pm to 8:00pm. Membership reapplications will be available at both events.

New Business:

Report from the State: Sandy Keathley reported that the interim lead for the state Master Gardener foundation board is Jennifer Marquis. The state foundation board will take over the management of the state wide Master Gardener conference held in September. Due to this reorganization there will be no 2019 state conference. The state board asks that there be at least two representatives from each county.

Whatcom County MG Foundation Board Retreat: November 1st at the Whatcom Community Foundation, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Possible agenda: Icebreaker, board member responsibilities, review of 2018 goals, and brainstorming for 2019 goals.

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Program Update: Beth Chisholm reports that she currently has seventeen applicants for the 2019 Master Gardener training program. Applications are due November 30th. The contract with the extension office and Solid Waste is renewed. Beth announced that she will be Master Composter/Recycler coordinator next year. Beth has also been working on a survey about our program for Whatcom County master gardeners to participate in. Her goal is to have the survey ready in November. A side note: Mill suggested a list of businesses used by the foundation board be made readily available.

Sandy Keathley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Barbara King seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by the Board.
The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Submitted by Linda Boblett, substituting for Kathy Barrett, Secretary.

**Next Meeting
November 1, 2018
@ Whatcom Community Foundation
1500 Cornwall Ave.
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**