

MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 8, 2008
9:30am, Cedar Room, VanDusen Gardens

PRESENT: Lynne Christmas, Linda Sears, Susan Lazar, Penny Koch, Leslie Ingram, Barry Roberts, Janet Sawatsky, Diane Hartley and special guest Pam Harrison, VIMGA President.

Regrets: Ron Fawcett

Note: The letters MSC used below stand for Moved, Seconded, Carried

1. Correspondence/Reports:

-Diane reported that sympathy cards were sent to the family of Rita Orum who passed away in December and to Nina Moser on the loss of her husband.

-letter received from the Food Bank Society thanking us for the food that was donated by our members at our Christmas party.

-Christine Allen gratefully accepted her life membership.

2. Treasurer's Report: (attached) Karen Shuster sent each member an email copy of a Treasurer's report in the absence of Ron Fawcett.

3. Minutes of Council Meeting of December 5/06: Minutes to be revised and redistributed to council by email.

a) Business arising from the Minutes

4. Committees

Division of Duties for new council: Council discussed the responsibilities of members and each member chose or was assigned a number of areas for which they will have liaison responsibility. Barry suggested that new members would probably like to take some time to read and understand the responsibilities that they have taken on and discuss concerns and ideas at a future time. All agreed. * See attached document for list of responsibilities

Education Committee: Council discussed the distinctions and responsibilities of the Education Cttee and determined that there are 2 committees. 1. The Education Evaluation Cttee which is currently evaluating the Basic Training Program and will move to evaluate all of our education programs in the future. 2. The Continuing Education Cttee which will be responsible for producing workshops and field trips and will report to the EEC.

Council-to-do-Calendar for 2008: Some revisions were made to dates and Linda Sears took on the job of amending the Committer Reports section. Council will ask our new treasurer to confirm dates for budget reports.

Council Meeting Calendar for 2008: attached.

5. Old Business:

Spring Seminar: Susan expressed the concern that there is no council member assigned responsibility for the Spring Seminar. Lynne has taken on a leadership role and has several people working with her on various aspects of the plans. Colleen Martin & Liz Hahn – speakers; Barry Roberts – vendors; Janet Sawatsky – billets; Joan Bentley – plant sale and Victoria mgs – education material. The theme will be Within 100 Miles: Home & Beyond. Advance registration is \$35 or \$41 with a sandwich, \$45 at the door.

Seedy Saturday: Lynne has this event under control

Service Award: Council made some amendments to the draft Awards Policy and it will be rewritten for next meeting. Lynne will announce at tonight's general meeting that nomination forms will be available from council members next week and must be submitted to Lynne Christmas by the end of January. A committee will review the nominations and, if the criteria have been met, the awards will be handed out at the Spring Seminar.

WebsERVER: Susan Lazar withdrew this item from the agenda as she wants to give Leslie an opportunity to speak with Pat Taylor, etc and come up with solutions to our website woes.

VIMGA: Pam Harrison, brought the concerns expressed by VIMGA to the Council. The main areas of concern are: 1) the inability of remote mgs to have a voice at meetings when major changes are decided, eg the pending bylaw changes ; 2) startup procedures for chapters are not standardized; 3) the MGABC's relationship to other groups using the name "Master Gardener" and 4) the belief that the MGABC should be distant and distinct from the VanDusen/lower Mainland Chapter of mgs. The MGABC should only deal with Provincial issues with input from affiliates. An extended discussion ensued with the resulting agreement that we are all of a like mind and that we are working toward resolution of these issues with the first step being changes to the existing bylaws. There was discussion about a further amendment to the bylaws which would allow remote mgs a way to vote on big issues like bylaw changes. This will be investigated by the bylaw committee. It was decided that we would proceed with the bylaw vote and work toward implementation of the Plans for the Future Program.

Affiliation Agreement: There was a discussion regarding development of a standard "Letter of Agreement" to be used when new chapters are added. Lynne will draft up a letter. As part of the discussion it was decided that a "face-to-face" meeting should take place before any agreements are discussed. Prince George will be invited to our Spring Seminar as a result of this discussion.

6. New Business:

Basic Training: Doreen Godwin requested clarification on presentation of graduation certificate to a first year student who has completed all of her 70 hours in her first year. Council decided that the policy states that the hours are accumulated over 2 years and that it really takes that long to develop an overall view of what it means to be a master gardener. The student will receive her certificate next year with the rest of her class.

Doreen also asked for guidance in responding to a person who works in the landscape industry and wants recognition of her horticulture/botanical training to allow her to bypass the basic training program and just write the exam to become a master gardener. Council decided that this would not be appropriate because we don't know what her training consisted of or why she wants to do this. Council is concerned that we maintain a high standard of trained mgs who are willing volunteers in the community.

Identity: Council spent some time discussing Linda Sears paper which asks the question: Who are We? Are we a **volunteer** organization whose focus is education or are we a **gardening** organization whose focus is education. A lively discussion followed and the resounding answer to the question was that we believe the MGABC is a **volunteer organization whose focus is education.**

7. Any Other Business:

June, 2008 General Meeting: Susan Lazar is planning a garden party for this meeting, to start at 6pm with refreshments and tours of the garden.

Council Goals for 2008: Council decided on 4 goals to be accomplished in 2008

1. Settle the agreements with Victoria and Prince George
2. Produce a standard affiliation package
3. Pass bylaws and continue amending them to accommodate our growing membership.
4. Update the Policy & Procedure manual.

Meeting adjourned at: 4:45pm

Handouts attached:

Treasurer's report

Linda Sears paper "Identity"

Calendar for MGABC Council

Draft #4 – Awards Policy

Responsibilities of 2008 Council Members

MGABC Meetings for 2008