

**MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2008**

9:30am, Cedar Room, VanDusen Gardens

**PRESENT:** Lynne Christmas, Linda Sears, Ron Fawcett, Penny Koch, Leslie Ingram, Barry Roberts, Janet Sawatsky, Diane Hartley

Regrets: Dana Richardson, Susan Lazar

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

**1. Correspondence:** Thank you card received from Rita Ourum's daughter

**2. Treasurer's Report: (attached)** Accepted as presented. m/s/c Leslie/Janet

**3. Minutes of Council Meeting of February 14, 2008:** Accepted as presented m/s/c/ Ron/Linda

**4. Committee Reports:**

a) Seedy Saturday made \$2042.91. Council voted unanimously to donate \$1,000 of the proceeds to Seeds of Diversity in keeping with the long standing tradition of Seedy Saturday. The vendors met after the event and discussed ways of making the public more aware of the purpose of Seedy Saturday and how to make it more attractive to the public. Several ideas were floated and a number of people will be working toward that goal.

b) Spring Seminar: registration numbers are down this year, probably because we did not get our speakers confirmed prior to the December newsletter and therefore members were not sure of what was being presented. Council discussed ways to ensure we attract the largest number of people possible. We must do more high profile advertising and we must get our speakers booked early in the fall. We need a committee to organize next year's Spring Seminar in place by this fall and we particularly need a person who will find and book speakers.

**5. Old Business:**

a) Barry has had difficulty obtaining a suitable copy of our Dogwood Logo to submit for registration, but has now obtained one and will get it in the works. It may take 8 or more weeks to process if it is accepted for registration. Council discussed the need to have our logo on all of our documents. Penny will discuss this with the newsletter committee and Leslie will work with the Website committee.

b) Barry reported that he needs input from several people in order to compile all of the documents for implementation of the Plans for the Future. Council discussed the aspects of the plan which will require attention, e.g. the financial aspects, member education continues to be an issue although council feels that every effort has been made to ensure the information about the Plan has been disseminated to the membership. Barry will convene a meeting of the Implementation Committee.

c) Leslie reported that Deb Dorey is moving to Quebec and will no longer work on our website. David Watkins is back from New Zealand, but we require more technical, computer literate people to maintain and upgrade our Website. The committee wants 3 people who can keep the website current, adding and changing information as required and 3 people to work on handling incoming and outgoing emails. People identified from the Membership Survey done last year will be asked to volunteer. The Cttee is still considering moving the Website to a new server. We need the ability to be interactive so that our members can submit documents such as pink sheets/Q&A sheets and be able to register for events through the website. We need to have our member's page be secure to be able to be interactive. Leslie reported that our domain name is due for renewal in June and that if we are going to move to a new service provider, June would be a good time to do it. A planning meeting will be convened ASAP.

d) Policy & Procedure Manual: Each council member has a part of this to work on. The deadline for submission is the end of April. Leslie will compile everything and present it to council for review.

e) We will print 150 copies of the new members handbook for presentation to the 2008 students and distribution to members. Leslie will also arrange to have it on the Website.

**6. New Business:**

a) Discussion of the letter sent to Heidi Hermary from VIMGA regarding the issue of them offering their "Organic" Master Gardeners course in Parksville at the same time as Malaspina College, Parksville is offering the VIMGA course. VIMGA has invited Heidi to meet for a discussion of how we can work together to resolve our issues.

b) Discussion of a request from Karen Shuster that MGABC get involved in the issue of Vancouver City garden waste pickup. As an organization we cannot get involved in political issues even though we may believe in one side or the other. It is outside of our mandate.

c) Linda reported that SMGA will be offering the Basic Training Program in Kamloops this fall and in Kelowna next spring. The master gardener students/graduates will be affiliated with Summerland until such time as they are ready to form their own chapter.

d) MGABC pays for insurance so that we are insured against public liability for up to \$5,000,000. As a member of the BC Council of Garden Clubs we could be members of their insurance plan. Ron will investigate to determine which is the better way for us to go.

e) Information has been received regarding an online MG course being offered by the Nova Scotia Agriculture College, in Truro, NS. Council discussed the possibility of offering our program online and decided that it would be very difficult to do as a volunteer organization, and at this time we do not have the necessary resources. Several members of the council thought the idea could be looked at in the future and presented through an institution such as Malaspina College.

f) Discussion of the makeup of a nominations committee: We need 5 members according to the current bylaws and if the new bylaws pass we will need 5 members plus 3 council members, Chair, Chair-elect and Past Chair. The committee must be in place by May 12 and must have nominees in place by August 12 for the September newsletter. Janet will work on getting the committee together.

g) Ron will work up a draft policy on our charitable status, e.g. what do we give receipts for ?.

**Meeting adjourned at: 12:35pm**

**Handouts attached:**

Financial Statements  
VIMGA letter