

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

April 8, 2008

9:30am, Cedar Room, VanDusen Gardens

**PRESENT:** Lynne Christmas, Susan Lazar, Ron Fawcett, Leslie Ingram, Penny Koch, Janet Sawatsky, Barry Roberts, Linda Sears, Diane Hartley and special guest, Pat Taylor

Regrets: Dana Richards

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

**1. Minutes of Council Meeting of March 11, 2008:** m/s/c Ron/Linda

**2. Treasurer's Report: (attached)** m/s/c to accept report, and list of cheques issued, as submitted. Ron/Janet  
m/s/c to move 50% of the cash in the HSBC chequing account into a redeemable  
GIC with HSBC. Ron/Susan

### **3. Communications & Committee Reports:**

a) Spring Seminar – evaluation forms reviewed, comments varied as usual, but generally those attending enjoyed the day.

b) Susan invited council to sign up for the May 30 workshop to be presented by Kwantlen University College School of Horticulture and the Institute for Sustainable Horticulture. Dr. Jim Matteoni of Kwantlen University has set up the program and it promises to be an exciting day featuring very qualified speakers. There is an invitation forthcoming for master gardeners to participate on a committee being formed at Kwantlen which will work on involving the community in the area of sustainable hort practices.

c) membership – Pat provided stats showing the distribution of MGABC membership and the activity levels of the VanDusen members over several years. The same stats for the other chapters have only been collected for a short time and were not included for that reason. The information led to a discussion regarding the form used by the members to report hours and concerns were expressed about the number of advice hours vs. non-advice hours. As the mandate of MGABC is education of the public council believes that mgs should be required to provide some advice hours, at least in their first few years. Pat explained that the status of a member who does not complete the required number of hours in a year is changed to Associate member. Pat will review the hours reporting form and make recommendations for changes to the form and to the requirements for advice hours at the September meeting. Leslie reported that Vanessa Farnsworth is working on the development of an interactive website so that members will be able to complete such forms on line.

d) BC Council of Garden Clubs – Leslie attended on behalf of Linda Sears and reported that the lunch was good and the speakers excellent (Heather Edwards from the City of Burnaby on Eco sculptures and Rolf Matthews from UBC on the eco culture of the Queen Charlottes); there are 154 garden clubs affiliated; member clubs can advertise special events @\$30 per ½ page advert.; \$9500 in scholarships are available and dispersed on a basis of need.

### **4. Old Business:**

a) Trademark/Logo registration – Barry reported that he has submitted the applications and fees for registration and receipt has been acknowledged. He was told that it can take up to 20 months for approval.

b) Implementation – Barry reported that the policy & procedure review is coming together and once it is complete the next step will be to determine which p&p apply to chapters and/or provincial council.

**5. d)** Ron & Barry have been working on sorting out the financial considerations, such as who owns what and presented a proposed budget breakdown to council. Council tabled the report pending election of the provincial council although the feeling was general that the provincial body should retain control of the Capital Assets in trust for the entire membership as a contingency reserve fund. An extended discussion ended as the meeting had to be adjourned so Lynne Christmas could go to work for the afternoon. Barry said that policies & procedures are still required regarding insurance coverage and charitable donations.

c) Website – Committee consists of Karen Shuster, David Watkins, Sally Mclaughlin and Leslie Ingram, Anna Camporese and Vanessa Farnsworth. David is working with individuals to determine responsibilities on the committee. Work is going forward on website clean up and expansion.

d) Policy & Procedures – work is progressing albeit slowly as everyone has a big workload. Once the material is compiled, the job will be to separate out which is chapter P&P and which is provincial P&P.

e) Letter of Affiliation – tabled to next meeting

**5. New Business:**

a) Nominations Committee

-setup for bylaw voting at General Meeting – members entitled to vote will be given a coloured paper to use as a ballot. Only qualified mgs are entitled to vote. There will be no discussion of the bylaw changes, just the vote. Lynne will explain to the meeting that: 1) the council unanimously supports the changes; 2) there will be no change to the fee structure in the foreseeable future; 3) 40% of MGABC membership lives outside of the GVRD; 4) members will still be able to vote for the individuals who will run their local chapters.

b) Community Projects – Penny Koch is responsible for liaison to Community Projects

c) Newsletter/Advertising – tabled to next meeting

d) covered above with Implementation

**7. Any Other Business:**

**Meeting adjourned at:** 12:10pm to reconvene at 6:30pm

Reconvened at 6:30pm for items 4c) d) e)

Adjourned at 7:10

**Handouts attached:**

Financial Statements

Workshop flyer

Membership statistical report

Budget proposal