

MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

9:30am, Cedar Room, VanDusen Gardens

PRESENT: Ron Fawcett, Barry Roberts, Leslie Ingram, Penny Koch, Dana Richardson, Susan Lazar, Janet Sawatsky, Linda Sears, Lynne Christmas, Diane Hartley

Regrets:

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

1. Minutes of Council Meeting of May 12, 2007: Dana brought #5, Newsletter Advertising to the attention of council, she would like to pursue advertisements in the newsletter. Barry suggested that she should follow up on her ideas and bring them back to council. **M/S/C** Ron/Linda

2. Treasurer's Report: (attached): M/S/C that the report be accepted with the treasurer's recommendation regarding journal entry recording interest of BTP & ATP along with the cheques issued report. Ron/Susan

3. Correspondence/Committee Reports:

(i) Cheri Trewin attended to report from the Community Projects as follows:

- Cheri & Joyce have been compiling a manual for CP which includes a "to do when" calendar and a clear process for assessing projects, recruiting volunteers and suitable forms.
- they have realized that a very important point to watch is that there are enough volunteers to keep projects operating continuously
- they continue to build the criteria used to determine if a proposal is suitable for community projects
- there are currently 14 projects underway
- Joyce & Cheri are in the process of contacting all project coordinators personally to discuss the programs, and any issues the coordinator may have.
- Linda suggested that there should be more advertising about community projects such as an article in the newsletter each issue.
- Cheri talked about her experience as a volunteer coordinator and how important it is to as why people want to volunteer and what they want out of the volunteer experience. She explained that there is no shortage of projects, but matching project to volunteers and long term commitments takes time to organize and get going.
- Cheri & Joyce will do an article for the newsletter explaining the processes and plans for CP
- CP will use mgclinics for recruiting volunteers for specific times and projects.

(ii) Pat Taylor has submitted a request for lifetime memberships for:

Nan Spedding (1986), Phillipa Ostler (1986) and Margery Milne (1987) **M/S/C** Susan/Dana

(iii) Lynne provide council with correspondence/pamphlets received from The University of Guelph Hort Program; BC Council of Garden Club Directory with letter re. invasive plants (given to Linda Sears); VanDusen Private Garden Tour poster

(iv) Education Committee: Ann Kent has copies of the survey Jack Grant did and will compile the information for council

(v) There is a committee of three people checking pink sheets.

4. Old Business:

(i) Susan reported that the May 30 workshop was a great success and will be followed up in September. The September date will be announced in the Summer Newsletter.

(ii) Ian Lai Tour of the Terra Nova project is scheduled for July 17 at 9am at 2631 Westminster Hwy, Richmond. The Ferndale Tour bus will leave VanDusen at 9am on Wednesday, August 13 and return at 5:30pm. The cost is \$40, see Judy Zipursky.

(iii) There was an extended discussion of the development of an Education Standards Document. Some council members expressed concern over the refusal of VIMGA to provide a copy of the agreement they have with Malaspina University/College and the affect that might have on MGABC's insurance coverage. The possibility of outsourcing the education of master gardeners and how that would affect the content of the program and how we would then encourage graduates to participate in the volunteer aspect of MGABC. Linda Sears suggested that we should: assess current curricula as to standards of education/materials used; present guidelines for outsourcing; create a list of courses that are recognized by MGABC; keep education of mgs with MGABC. Lynne will ask Pam Harrison what criteria were used to establish course content at Malaspina and will discuss outsourcing idea with Doreen Godwin and ask for her input. Lynne will keep council informed by email and if necessary call a meeting over the summer.

(iv) Lynne reported that the VIMGA manual emailed to council members by Janet Sawatsky has a different version of the affiliation agreement between MGABC and VIMGA. The correct version must be determined. Leslie reported that she is still waiting for material to complete the policy and procedure manual, but has emailed the document she has compiled to council members for reading over the summer break and discussion at the September meeting.

5. New Business:

(i) The General Meeting scheduled for 7:30pm, June, 2009 must be rescheduled as the Floral hall is booked. Council will choose another date.

(ii) ATP is looking for an instructor for the trees and shrubs elective as Peter Wharton is ill and no longer able to teach.

(iii) M/S/C MGABC and it's council does not support the action taken by VIMGA in regards to the letter sent to Heide Hermary of Gaia SOUL. Ron/Dana (Janet Sawatsky abstained from vote and discussion)

(iv) Lynne has been working on speakers for the Spring Seminar and has talked to people from the David Suzuki Foundation; The Honey Bee Store in Langley and Richard Hebda of the Provincial Museum. We are looking for a keynote speaker.

6. Any Other Business:

(i) Susan Lazar suggested that all council members be trained to use all of the equipment owned by MGABC.

(ii) Christine Allen has a digital projector for sale; Barry is going to look at it for suitability.

(iii) order of tonight's general meeting discussed.

Meeting adjourned at: 12:35

Handouts attached:

Financial reports
University of Guelph pamphlets, etc
Ed. Standards email discussion Lynne/Pam Harrison
Private Garden Tour poster
VIMGA letter Gaia SOUL
Replies from Gaia & Burnaby Continuing Ed.