

MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday October 14, 2008
9:30am, Cedar Room, VanDusen Gardens

PRESENT: Lynne Christmas, Linda Derkach, Ron Fawcett, Jack Grant, Pam Harrison, Leslie Ingram, Penny Koch, Susan Lazar, Dana Richardson, Barry Roberts

Regrets: Diane Hartley, Linda Sears

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

1. Minutes of Council Meeting of September 8, 2008

- *MSC (Ron/Penny) that the minutes be accepted as distributed and amended.*

2. Treasurer's Report: m/s/c Ron/Barry

- The Financial Statements as of September 30 were distributed by Ron. He indicated there had been little change since August. He discussed the establishment of identifiable accounts for recording the receipt and disbursement of charitable donations.
- There was some discussion about the travel budget. Linda put forward the idea of buying a speaker phone to reduce travel costs. This led to the question of whether or not a phone line could be made available in the meeting room. It was agreed that this should be investigated further. Lynne will talk to VBGA about what facilities are available.
- Ron distributed the latest Cheques Issued Report. *MSC (Susan/Barry) that the Cheques Issued Report be accepted as distributed.*
- The need for a motion to handle the signing of charitable receipts was discussed. *MSC (Susan/Pam) "that the incumbent Provincial Treasurer be authorized to sign official MGABC charitable receipts".* This responsibility should be added to the Treasurer's documented list duties and responsibilities.
- Ron reported that the paperwork has been completed to transfer the MGABC funds from the North Shore Credit Union to HSBC.
- Some term deposits are coming due tomorrow. There was discussion about what to do with these funds and the Council agreed with Ron's recommendation to roll the monies into redeemable term deposits.
- *MSC (Ron/Barry) that the Financial Statements be accepted as distributed.*

3. Correspondence:

- Lynne indicated we had received a letter from Victoria thanking us for our invitation to affiliate. Attached to it was the letter of affiliation signed by the Victoria Master Gardeners Association President. The letter of affiliation needs to be approved and signed by the MGABC Council for it to be finalized.

4. Committee Reports:

a) Nominations Committee Report:

- Jack provided the list of Nominations for Provincial Council for 2009 as compiled by the Nominations Committee. There were no further nominations from the membership and the candidates will be elected by acclamation. The first meeting in January will clarify the positions of the Council members. Past President and President Elect are carried over from last year.
- The report from the Committee also included two recommendations to improve the workings of the Committee. The Committee faced a major challenge in interpreting the new bylaws' geographical requirements. The ensuing discussion identified the need to look into ways to combine chapter

representation with geographical area representation. Currently the bylaws identify 16 geographical areas but do not recognize the need for each established Chapter to have a representative. It was agreed that next years Council needs to look at making an amendment to address this issue.

- Pam and Linda also identified an issue about having to vote on bylaws in person (no write-ins).
- ***MSC (Susan/Ron) to have the Bylaws Committee look into the necessary amendments related to regional versus chapter representation, voting on bylaw changes by mail as well as in person, and the procedures for replacing vacancies on Council.***
- It was also discussed and agreed that the new Council should look into establishing the nominations committee as soon as possible.
- ***MSC (Pam/Susan) that the Nominations Committee Report be accepted as presented.***
- Jack will disseminate the provincial nomination information to the Presidents of the Chapters and will have it sent out to everyone on mgadmin a day later. He will present it at the AGM meeting in November.
- Pam and Linda asked that we ensure the November AGM is structured as two meetings – one for the Provincial Association and one for the Vancouver Chapter.
- A subset of the Provincial Council will be the Executive for the Vancouver Chapter. Lynne will send out the Vancouver Chapter Nominations List (coordinated with Jack's distribution of the Provincial Nominations List) and will present it at the Vancouver Chapter portion of the AGM.

b) Membership Committee Report:

- Pat Taylor was not in attendance to present the report. This topic will be carried forward to another meeting.

5. Old Business:

a) Richmond Pesticide Ban

- Lynne has heard nothing back from Richmond.
- Ron questioned if this kind of activity is within the mandate of our organization and if it may have a negative impact on our charitable organization status. The CRA does not approve of charitable organizations being involved in politics or advocacy. The ensuing discussion recognized the need to be careful that we approach this and similar requests as 'educating' rather than 'lobbying'.

b) 2009 Objectives

- Linda has put everything from the last meeting into a chart and sent it back to Barry. Barry will distribute it for discussion in November. The plan is to have it ready for discussion at the January Council meeting and ready to be presented to the membership in the spring newsletter.

c) Gardenwise Advertising

- Lynne had distributed a proposed write-up. The feeling was that it was too wordy and there was concern about the reference to other institutions education. Susan will work on it and circulate a modified proposal by email for agreement.

d) Victoria LoA

- Lynne had received a fax copy of the signed letter from Jan. (The paper copy is in the mail.) It includes the amendments as shown in the latest version circulated by Lynne on October 10th. Ron expressed concern about standardizing the name to Master Gardeners Association of BC – Location Chapter. After some discussion, ***MSC (Barry/Ron) to sign the letter as signed by Victoria and returned to us.***

e) Fact Sheets

- Barry had distributed a link to the Fact Sheets prior to the meeting. Everyone had taken a look at them and agreed that they look great.
- Barry reported that we now need to raise sponsorship money to print them. He has someone out canvassing for support. We need \$8,100, some of which has already been spent. He used a graphic design house for the design (approximately \$1,500) and received a quote of about \$24K to have 3000 copies of each printed locally. He got a cheaper quote from Hong Kong (approximately \$6K). He is also looking into various other ways of distributing, such as email and the website.
- Dana wondered if we could recover costs by selling them – for example at the Update Seminar. Barry indicated the plan was to raise sponsorship money and distribute them for free. Packages will be given out

to MGs at the Seminar (one packet per member, 6 copies of each topic, 16 topics). Those who do not attend the Seminar will have the packages distributed to them in other ways. They also planned to put together a limited number of full set binders and sell them for about \$40.

- It was agreed that it is important to plan the distribution in such a way that the copies are not wasted.
- All of the fact sheets have 'copy write' on them.

f) Policies and Procedures

- Leslie requested that everyone on Council go back to their to-do lists regarding policies and procedures and get any updates and/or new material to her by October 31st.
- Pam and Linda agreed to take a look at the Travel Expense Policy and propose any changes they feel are required.

g) Educational Standards

- Pam wondered when this material would be available. Lynne did not know and suggested Pam talk with Jack. Council gave the directive about a year and a half ago. Work is underway but has been delayed for a number of reasons.

h) Schedule of meetings

- Pam wondered if there was any flexibility in meeting times. Meeting dates have been set for next year and the meeting room has been booked. The plan was to have the Provincial portion of the meeting first and the Vancouver Chapter portion after. This needs to be discussed at the first meeting in January.

6. New Business:

a) VBG Interpretation Workshop

- Susan had nothing to report at this time.

b) Newsletter

- Penny asked if we should consider increasing the frequency of the newsletters to monthly. Penny has spoken with Ann-Marie who thought it would be a good idea to increase the volume of communications. Ann-Marie suggested possibly sending out a monthly letter by email rather than doing a full newsletter (particularly to promote the monthly meeting(s)). There was also some question about the budget (can we afford 10 a year). Ann-Marie is canvassing some of the membership for input. Susan suggested and everyone agree that this idea should be brought forward again in January.

c) VBGA/MGABC Agreement

- A draft had been pre-circulated by Lynne. It is being negotiated by the MGABC for the Vancouver Chapter (since it isn't a legal entity) and includes some of the needs of the Provincial organization (e.g. meetings, advanced training, update seminar). It will be discussed at the VBGA meeting tomorrow evening.
- The question of sharing garden membership fees is still being looked into. VBGA is discussing it with their development group.
- Lynne stressed again the need for MGABC membership cards.

7. General Remarks:

a) VIMGA Meeting

- The VIMGA General Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 19, from 10 to 3, at Oliver Woods Convention Centre in Nanaimo. Anyone from Council who wants to attend should contact Pam.

c) MGABC Christmas Party(s)

- The MGABC Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 14 at 2 p.m. in the Floral Hall. There had been a request to move the time to noon. Since the advertising has already gone out, it was felt it was best to leave it as advertised. Wine is again being donated.
- Council members are asked to think about what they might want to do for the December meeting (which is a joint 2008/2009 Council Meeting). Do they want to go for lunch after? This should be brought up again in November.

8. Vancouver Chapter Topics:

a) October 20 Meeting

- Susan reported that Advanced Master Gardeners will be speaking at the meeting. Each speaker has 10 minutes and there will be 4 speakers. She asked for feedback on the format and how well it is received by the membership.
- b) September 19 Workshop
- Susan reported that the September 19 Workshop did not happen because there were not enough registrants. Feedback indicated that cost was an issue. The College would be interested in rescheduling it in May.
 - Susan asked for input on fees to charge. The first workshop cost was \$20 and included lunch. The cost for the second workshop was set by the College at \$100. Ron suggested possibly \$50 where we charge members \$40 and subsidize \$10. Susan will talk with the College and bring the topic back to Council.
 - Susan suggested we need to consider some kind of recognition of attendance at workshops.
- c) South Fraser Meeting
- Barry reported that the meeting will be held Thursday at 6:30 in Elgin Hall. He urged everyone to attend and will provide a full report next month.

Next Meeting – Monday, November 10, 2008, 9:30 a.m. in the Cedar Room

Meeting adjourned at: 1:25 pm (MC Susan)

Handouts attached:

Financial Statements as @ September 30, 2008

Cheques Issued Report

Thank You Letter from Victoria Master Gardener Association

Nominations Committee Report to Council October 14, 2008

Gardenwise Advertising (Becoming a Master Gardener)

Victoria Letter of Affiliation

VBGA/MGABC Agreement (2004 version, proposed 2008 version)