

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

Thursday, February 12, 2009

1:00 pm, Cedar Room, VanDusen Gardens

**PRESENT:** Barry Roberts, Linda Derkach, Penny Koch, Ron Fawcett, Linda Sears, Heather Nielsen, Susan Lazar, Terry Dixon, Leslie Ingram, Jan Hemming, Lynne Christmas, Wendy McIntyre, and Sally Shivers standing in for Pam Harrison. Regrets: Pam Harrison, Sheila Malbeuf,

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

1. a) **Call to Order – Barry called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.**  
b) **Adoption of Agenda** Jan queried when Chapters will in turn submit to Newsletter- Penny will liaise with Ann-marie c) **Approval of Minutes from Dec. 9/08** m/s/c Linda D. / Penny

### 2. **Spring Seminar**

Lynne reported seminar registrations running behind- mail in only? Janet Fraser has submitted to BC Council of Garden Clubs, Garden Wise, BCNLA and an ad Fri 27<sup>th</sup> in the AT HOME section of V. Sun. plus 3 day appearance on their website on sidebar. These adverts will offer registration at the door \$45. We need general public to pump up our #'s.

Discussion of Steve Wysall visit to Basic Training. Doreen to invite him to Seminar ( comp).

Ron suggested phoning committee could phone all MG's who haven't registered. Post Mortem needed as to why MG's are not attending.

Vendors- 15 vendors- (tough economic times-many out of business). Gardens West magazine, World Rose Festival. 32 Books, Tuscan Farms, Big Bear Tools, Kelpman , Orchid Grower etc plus the popular Sea Soil Fundraiser. \$625 revenue from table rental ( \$70 per).

Itinerary unavailable at this time

### 3. **Proposed South Fraser Chapter update- Ron**

Ron reported that in a recent poll 45% of 107 members expressed interest in participating in a new chapter. 32% said NO. 23% didn't respond. Majority of 45% said Surrey as a venue , desiring quarterly evening meetings. So based on that response South Fraser Chapter is a go!

- **Chair of MGABC** – follow-up e mail to October meeting  
– mid April meeting?

Leslie asked how Geographic's would work, Lynne agreed you don't need to be a member of VBGA.

New LoA- Look at Bylaws- < steering committee

NOTE: Tsawwassen /North Fraser said no benefit to chapter> majority like Vancouver over Surrey

### 4. **Who are MG's – Barry spoke to a recent article written by Janet Sawatsky for South Surrey Garden Club. Great handout, needs tweaking by members.**

- Barry showed Master Gardener Banner- We need to pay for more- could be used at Plant Sale, Update, Rose Festival table, Home Show. Susan suggested using it at every meeting. Wendy could use it at her MG sponsored March 5<sup>th</sup> presentation. New banners need to be costed out.

### 5. **Allocation of Responsibilities – see revised chart MGABC Council Responsibilities**

- Discussion of MG support of events – educational content needed. Wendy presenting as MG on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Susan reported on at May 1<sup>st</sup> workshop for Vancouver Chapter. Barry referred to the NS Recycling pamphlet courses. Susan spoke to MG's who are busy advocating for other projects ( as discussed at Newcomers meeting)
- We need to celebrate MG's doing what they are doing. Lots of activities go unrecognized.
- Barry wondered how we could do it under the MG banner-
- Jan spoke of having a strategic partner- we bring our mandate and join with another partner- We don't have the resources but we have people.

Discussion of Website Committee- Penny offered to compile chapter info into an e-mail for a 'What's happening column.'

Respectfully submitted, Heather Nielsen, Secretary

- Discussion of local chapters offering events- charging a minimal fee. Susan referred to MG's who are doing (free) container workshops at the Plant Sale April 26.

Changes to Chart

- Continuing Ed Workshops & Field Trips now MG & Public Ed Workshops & Field Trips
- Invasive Plant Council could partner with MG's for projects.
- Outstanding Service Committee moved to Vancouver Chapter

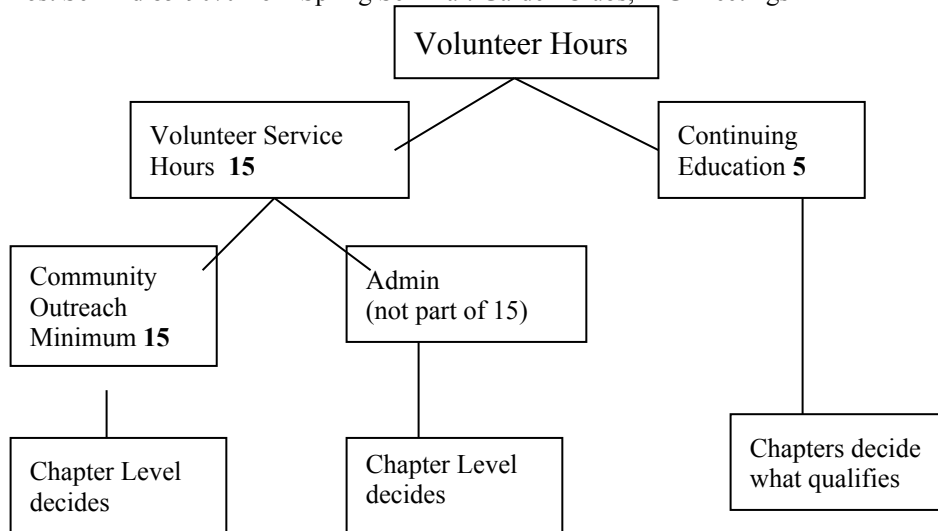
Annual Report- change to March for 2010?

**6. BTP, Standards and Requirements- Linda Derkach - review at March Meeting**

Linda requires feedback on this document based on what was discussed. Guts are p. 5-9

**7. Volunteer Hours Report- Pat Taylor (attachment #3)**

- Pat referred to provincial info from her membership data base
- Nomenclature is 'all over the map'
- Most Self-Ed 85-90% from Spring Seminar. Garden Clubs, MG Meetings



**MOTION THAT** community outreach hours be minimum 15 for all members

Carried

**Nomenclature- leave of absence** needs redefining- associate status< we retain very few once they become associate. They have no vote but are able to attend meetings.

Jan and Pat to discuss further

Respectfully submitted, Heather Nielsen, Secretary

## 8) Chapter Reports

**Summerland-** Summerland- Linda Sears reported: Training 20 students in Kelowna. Clinic sign-up commences March 21 at event with speaker on water conservation and soils. Summerland MG's will also be presenting a half-day workshop on June 6 in Kelowna, featuring Ted Baker (President of BC Iris Society), and speakers on Okanagan soils, pond plants and web resources for xeriscaping. Summerland MG's average 66 hours each. Master Gardeners will be present at the Hummingbird Visitor Center at the Summerland Gardens with MG's to encourage gardening public to 'bring your problems to us.'

**Victoria-** Hosting MGABC AGM – weekend or weekday? Jan to confer with her group. Victoria to have another person sitting on council. Jan 2010: will use plant sale money to attract big name speaker i.e.: growing food. 23 new students in spring class

**VIMGA** – Sally reported a mentorship program in place with 23 new students. Each potential applicant interviewed heavily stressing volunteer component of being MG . ( 10 decided not to do the course which is preferable to expending energy to train them only to have them quit.) Seedy Saturday – Huge seed exchange 50 vendors- 1800 people attend. an increase of 12% over last year MG involvement in community garden ( 40 plots) Community Garden fundraising for the cost of fencing, approx. \$7,600.00, well underway. Strong MG presence on the org. committee, want it to be a place for public education, once established.

## 9) Treasurer's Report

see attachments : MGABC Revenue/ Expense Summary, 31/01/2009 Balance Sheet

## 10. Continuing Business

- a) **Awards**, a gap in procedure: it was agreed Chapters can still submit names. Barry can announce names- give out certificates at Seminar. Leslie to make changes in document.
- b) **Membership Counts** – discussion: we need to get to a point of having a usable provincial data base.
- c) **Website Committee Meeting March 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Native Plant website similar to MGABC is being upgraded. The cost is around 4K and hands over code which allows organization to work on website itself.
- d) **10/20 Year Pins-** Discussion of pins vs certificates. Agreed to stick with status quo.

8. Adjournment- There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

*Handouts attached*

Agenda

Proposed Fraser Chapter Steering Committee Report February 2009

MGABC Membership Counts ( January 2009) ( Pat Taylor)

MGABC Council Responsibilities (revised Feb 26/09)

Education Committee Project Plan Feb 1, 2009

Respectfully submitted, Heather Nielsen, Secretary