

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

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

11:00 a.m. Cedar Room, VanDusen Gardens

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

**REGRETS:** Pam Harrison, Sheila Malbeuf, Terry Dixon, Jan Hemming

**Note: the letters m/s/c used below stand for Moved, Seconded, and Carried**

1. a) **Call to Order** – Barry called the meeting to order at 11:10a.m.  
b) **Adoption of Agenda** c) **Approval of Minutes from Feb 12/09** m/s/c Linda S. / Lynne

### 2. **Treasurer's Report Ron Fawcett**

Ron handed out (1) 2009 MGABC Spring Seminar Rev/Expense Summary and  
(2) MGABC- Provincial 'Cheques issued' (attached paper copies)

**To accept Rev/ Expenses Summary as presented m/s/c Ron/ Leslie**

- Linda S. wondered why vendors are included on (1) Pat's figures for MG Spring Seminar info. Lynne said that 1 vendor table = 2 registrations. Concern re counting bodies twice
- (2) Cheques issued since January '09- question re Seminar refunds: if you cancel before the date you get a refund. If you do not show up there is no refund issued.

**To accept MGABC Provincial Cheques issued document m/s/c Ron/Penny**

### 3. **Spring Seminar Lynne Christmas**

Lynne stated we need a proper advertising budget. Janet Fraser does publicity only to all free venues.

Barry noted 25% of attendees are general public (613 seats in theatre)

MJ Fox Theatre has been booked for \* March 7, 2010 \* March 13, 2011

Discussion of:

- Same people setting up each year- how do we get more people involved @ Prov. level?
- Lynne proposed 2-3 different workshops in different areas and/ or to fill our mandate by educating public
- Sally suggested holding Spring Seminar every other year and put more effort into alternate years. 'Education Day' on Vancouver Island: Plant sale and speakers
- Linda D. said it's important for MGABC to bring in leading edge topics
- Leslie suggested assistance from other Chapters i.e. e-mail support
- Barry looking for feedback from people: come because of info they can take back to clinics. If we educate public should we change info?
- Susan suggested Provincial Convention focus—make it sexy
- Barry wondered about having speakers do a follow-up talk @ Different Chapter locations
- Phoning committee needs to be notified earlier
- Pat has a list of non-MG registrants from last year

**Consensus: we still run a Seminar—Need to strike a committee—really good speakers—book now!**

**Speakers need to be briefed on what MG's are looking for. Better write-ups on speaker needed.**

**Better marketing and promotion.**

Ron spoke to having an advertising budget. He is not convinced it is necessary and feels we can do it from within our membership.

**In Summary:**

- we need to expand to the general public
- council needs to be involved
- more \$ needed for speakers
- investigate other sources of Sea Soil type product
- someone from each Chapter should be involved with Education Committee for choosing speakers.
- 3 speakers only followed by lighthearted finale

Respectfully submitted, Heather Nielsen, Secretary

#### 4. Chapter Reports

**Summerland- Linda Sears** reported 2 Kelowna students have dropped out. They are entitled to return to the next training session but will receive no refund.

Kamloops is waiting until enough MG's are fully qualified (2010) to form their own Chapter.

**Vancouver Island- Sally Shivers** spoke of Education Day April 5<sup>th</sup>. Clinic sign-up was in each area this year with 4 separate sign-up meetings. VIMGA is building a stronger liaison with Milner Gardens. Janet Sawatsky will liaise upcoming events with Penny. Community Gardens have raised 5k of the 7k needed for fencing. The BT Course facilitator has resigned so this job will be posted on the Island and should be posted on MG website. Sally reported the Sustainable Gardening manual used in Basic Training was last updated in 1999.

**Victoria- Barry** read Jan Hemmings report:

Nov 26<sup>th</sup> AGM to be held in Sidney- discussion followed on logistics. More info to follow

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual recognition ceremony- the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of 5-year pins are to be given out. 131 clinics scheduled. On Mother's Day 10 Garden Venue events are booked. In March two events: a composting workshop and 'Beauty and the Feast', integrating edibles into the garden, will be held.

**Vancouver – Susan Lazar** reported on recent Guide /MG meeting featuring Harry Jongerden from VanDusen Gardens who spoke on the importance of volunteers and emphasized integrity of the garden. Recent Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Seedy Saturday a great success with revenues over 3k. The Spring Seminar was well attended with a great awards portion. April meeting guest will be Gwen Odermatt ( Petals and Butterflies/ Great Plant picks) and also an hour on Clinics Refresher. May 12 will showcase 3 speakers on 'Green Roofs'. June 16<sup>th</sup> is the Garden Party at VanDusen . Many more events TBA in the next bulletin

**Prince George- N/A**

**First Chapter Bulletin- Penny Koch**

Penny will contact Chapters at the beginning of each month. Barry wants ALL events to be published each month – every event going on in each Chapter. Remove dated info, add updated info as it comes in.

New Home and Garden manual coming out—discussion of most members needing new copy.

#### 5. Bringing Governance paperwork to completion

**a. Annual Report** - Lynne Christmas **2008 report needed—agreed by June /09**

Vancouver Chapter began in 2009 therefore first report to be made in 2010.

- change to March for 2010

**b. BT P, Standards & Requirements** dated March 4/09

**To accept document as presented and amend as necessary m/s/c Linda D./ Sally**

**c. Policies and Procedures (Provincial) 2.1**

**To accept document as presented and amend as necessary m/s/c Penny/ Susan**

**c. Speakers Group: kick start Linda D.**

Guidelines needed- should this be a Chapter thing? Are we going to charge for an MG speaker? MG's presently negotiate their own terms. Expenses should be paid. Barry would like to see it centralized. Build a team of 10-20 speakers: charge \$100 to garden club then reimburse speaker.

Linda S. feels each chapter should be responsible for policy: No to set fee. Sally would like us all to think on this for next month

Linda D. will develop draft policy statement with options for resolution of the question about MGs selling plants and products at speaking engagements.

**6. Website Redesign- Progress and Plans**

**Leslie Ingram**

Leslie reported on a recent meeting with Vanessa Farnsworth & her husband who own 'Webtropolis', plus Karen Shuster, and David Watkins. Our web data will soon be moved to Webtropolis server @ the same hosting cost we presently pay; now we will have access to website tools: site search engine, design team communication, tech support. An official letter is forthcoming. #1 priority is to move site over within next few months. There will be consistent e-mail and a sub domain for Chapters.

Barry wondered if we would be beholden to one person. Leslie responded no, this is a typical service offered by web-hosting services but that we are receiving a great deal due to Vanessa being an MG.

7. Adjournment: There being no further time the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. with the balance of the agenda being tabled for the next meeting April 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Handouts attached*

Agenda

(1) 2009 MGABC Spring Seminar Revenue/ Expense summary

(2) MGABC Provincial Cheques Issued Jan- Feb 28/09

2010 Meeting Schedule Calendar