

MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 11, 2009

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

PRESENT: Barry Roberts, Pam Harrison, Penny Koch, Ron Fawcett, Linda Sears, Heather Nielsen, Susan Lazar, Jan Hemming, Hope Hilliard

REGRETS: Lynne Christmas, Linda Derkach, Leslie Ingram, Sheila Malbeuf, Wendy McIntyre

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 11:06a.m.
b) Adoption of Agenda
c) Approval of Minutes from April 14/09 m/s/c Barry/ Susan

2. **Treasurer's Report Ron Fawcett**
a) Ron spoke to Cheques Issued doc. (Elgin Hall is a South Fraser Chapter Expense)m/s/c Ron/ Linda S
b) Ron spoke to Financial Statements:
Income Statement as @ Apr 30, 2009
Balance Sheet as @ Apr 30, 2009 m/s/c Heather / Jan
c) **Charitable Giving Policy (MGABC Provincial Guidelines)**
Ron proposed removing p. 45 (ii) section: 'Planning Considerations re: Fundraising
To adopt documents as presented/amended m/s/c Susan/ Ron
Leslie to finalize document and re-circulate
 - Linda asked for clarification of 'private benevolence': Ron used the example: Susan purchased coffee for a recent workshop and chose not to ask for reimbursement.
 - Jan said it was a great piece of work with simple language. She asked:
 - 1) Were there any provisions for dates of donations – No
 - 2) What to do about an honorarium to a speaker who then declines payment. – Cheque can be cancelled, NO receipt can be issued.

3. **Plans for 2009 AGM – Jan's AGM outline and announcement for discussion**
 - a. Jan reported cost of bus transport, ferry, lunch, etc will work out to less than \$50 per person
 - b. If inclement weather, HCP Glendale Gardens will offer a free pass for a later date
 - c. Decision to not book big name \$\$\$ speaker due to uncertainty of attendance.
 - d. Ted Baker will come from Salt Spring for \$200 to speak on Irises, which tolerate drought, poor soil, and deer.
 - e. Discussion on attendance: do we open to public; need to look at business meeting portion.
 - f. Publicity: Jan to send Announcement in Word format, each Chapter can individualize. Bookmarks will cost \$30 to print and will be distributed to all Chapters.
 - g. It was agreed to shift acceptance date to Oct 1st. Members can be polled in Sept. as to interest.

4. **MG Fact Sheets – Barry presented 'proofs' of 4 copies of fact sheets written by MG's for MG's to distribute use at clinics. (Planning for November printing.)**
 - a) Barry hopes all members will receive 6 copies each of 16 leaflets at 2010 Spring Seminar.
 - b) Sponsorship is needed; \$7, 200 still to be raised. Julie Thomson is looking at sponsors; \$4,800 from Shell Environmental. There is a blank space on the back of the Fact Sheet for sponsor name
 - c) \$100 (or more) will receive a tax receipt. Ron has a document for credit card acceptance which may be faxed in to him rather than phoning in credit card number.
 - d) Victoria has agreed to approach sponsors; Vancouver Island and Summerland will take back to their membership. (Each of these Chapters have a set of 4)
 - e) Discussion of having fact sheet info on website; agreed to wait on this
 - f) Jan said this is part of our roll out for Communications Plan

5. **Spring Seminar:** This matter tabled for June Meeting

Respectfully submitted, Heather Nielsen, Secretary

6. Resignations – Newsletter Editor – Penny

- a) Penny reported Wendy-Jones Carrier who does layout, will stay on for a while longer. Ann-Marie is exploring replacement options. This position could be done electronically/ shared job.
- b) Wendy to add a big thank you to Ann-Marie in upcoming newsletter / Council to send a big thank you Heather will bring a card to next meeting for all to sign
- c) Penny to collate all job description documents sent out by Ann-Marie to Vancouver Island etc.

**7. Chapter Reports
Summerland- Linda Sears**

- Clinic scheduling and sign-up complete. 43 clinics and several Community Projects will be serviced by 38 MG's and student MG's from April to September.
- New initiative: a grid garden for vegetables will be installed at the Summerland Ornamental Gardens – planned, installed and explained by the MG's. An opportunity to educate besides doing clinics.
- June 5th fundraiser is in place, with good advertising so it is expected to be successful. Ted Baker to speak on Iris's , which are very suitable for Interior soils.
- Presentations by our MG's include talks to local gardening groups and a presence at the launch of the Communities in Bloom in Vernon. This is the first year for Vernon ; a gift of a Ginko biloba, presented by Kelowna C I B has been planted.
- Kamloops Chapter has no thoughts of independence until end of 2010. Leslie Welch is keeping this chapter busy; wants to train one more batch of MG's.

Vancouver Island- Pam Harrison

- New facilitator needed by Vancouver Island U. input has been solicited (this has been posted by MG Admin)
- Several executive positions to fill: V. P needed -- could be a Co. V.P. position Heather, I suggest: It has been difficult to fill the VP position; reminder from Linda Sears that some positions can be made more attractive by being shared positions.
- Clinic set-up (done in separate geographic areas) complete thanks to Linda D.
- 23 New students (under new service agreement with V. I. U.); students appear to be enthusiastic
- So far low interest in fall BT course—challenging to work with V.I.U. course timeline; most people are not thinking in May of gardening related courses in the fall. Working on more publicity.
- VIMGA is pleased some of their members are involved with Qualicum Beach Community Garden
- Pam suggested that as a group we need to look at the language used by MG's : “organic” “ Least Toxic” (Discussion followed of ‘Organic Master Gardener’ Course offered by Gaia)

Victoria – Hope Hilliard

- Spring class of graduates joining May 20th meeting
- 75 clinics have been booked
- Waiting to meet with HCP to implement curriculum changes
- ‘What is a Master Gardener’ has been added to ‘Clinic Box’ (discussion followed on what a clinic box is: a box full of materials, pamphlets, handouts for clinics. There are clinic boxes available for MG's in various geographic areas; they must be signed out by MG's)
- New pest policy developed by Victoria and Linda Gilkeson
- Membership policy being investigated for emeritus status, i.e. categories of membership. Barry said we should collectively look at policy. This will be on June agenda, Pat Taylor will be invited
- Mother's Day saw a 2-day Garden Tour event with a total of 216 advice hours
- Victoria MG's will be offering garden tours to other Victoria MG's in June.

- Mid-July will showcase a tour and workshop at Carolyn Herriot's garden. This comes under the Education Committee's mandate of promoting the theme of 'food'.

Prince George (paper report attached)

Chapter Reports cont.

Vancouver – Susan Lazar

- April Meeting 'Clinic Refresher' a success showcasing 'What NOT to do at a clinic'
- Gwen Odermatt gave a wonderful lecture on 'Great Plant Picks'
- May workshop for MG's on Insect Diagnosing a huge success – oversubscribed
- Vancouver Chapter communicating with Doreen Godwin on the need for ongoing education. We have a need to provide to members.
- Container Planting Demo at recent VanDusen Plant sale: a glorious day, thousands of people attended. The demos were very popular (recipes are on the MG Website under Vancouver Chapter) We need photos and microphones next year.
- May 12 MG meeting to showcase 'Green/Living Roofs' of YWCA and Trade & Convention Centre.
- Riverview Tree walk has been postponed while a new Coordinator is found for their organization
- Washington MG's will be visiting Canada August 25th, Barry Roberts and Joan Bentley's garden will be part of the tour. (Barry suggested contacting Mel Felkner)
- Third bulletin- Needs proper WORD formatting – Jan will e-mail a sample to Penny

Susan polled the Council for feedback on fundraising by selling 'Max Field Guides'. Discussion followed; it was agreed that as Master Gardeners do not endorse only one product; as a group we are not familiar with this publication; this matter was tabled.

8. Website/ Green Pages

Discussion of MG's advertising their businesses on our website. Jan thought it was a value added thing. Discussion followed. It is against policy for MG's to advertise their business while representing MG's. It was decided to explore whether MG's have an opinion of Green Pages. Heather will e mail those MG's on green pages

9. Education Committee – DRAFT MGABC Education Committee Terms of Reference – May 7, 2009
Pam is collecting feedback for Linda D.

a) Barry wondered if emphasis on this project has shifted from assessing whether or not we are really educating the public to assessing the BTP and ATP. Pam felt that both were legitimate targets for the committee, and that B is being addressed by Linda's questionnaire. Barry was concerned this documents deals with BT and AT and wondered how we were fulfilling our mandate in terms of educating the public. Linda still waiting for rest of feedback on Questionnaire (item 4. p. 1)

b) Jan suggested 'B' 'Fulfilling our Mandate' is what Barry is looking at ; concentrate on feedback for this section only. Victoria sent 8 pages of data. Prioritizing becomes an issue. 'C, D & E' are internal ed.

c) Pam wondered if another group should take on the 'B' section, discussion followed.

d) Pam said Linda's gut feeling is that MG's are doing interesting things (Educating public). Discussion of how Vancouver Chapter needs are different. Susan said we need a community garden.

After much discussion it was agreed to proceed on all aspects of the document.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Nielsen, Secretary

10. New Chapter Initiative- Barry

Barry gave an overview of his vision of a package we need to assemble for potential partners. Our kit could include all material we presently have. Pam expressed view that strong volunteer infrastructure on the ground is the most important part of making MG programs what they should be.

11. MGABC Poster or Banner – Lynne

This matter tabled to June

12. 2009/2010 Calendar/ Meetings – after discussion looks as though we will only be able to reduce to 5 meetings per year: Sept, Nov, Jan, March and June ---Tabled for June

13. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next Provincial Council Meeting will be held Tuesday June 9th @ 11:00 (FYI this was booked in 2008)

Handouts attached

Agenda

April 14, 2009 Minutes

Cheques issued April 2009

Financial Statements:

Income Statement as @ April 30, 2009

Balance Sheet as @ April 30, 2009

MGABC Provincial Guidelines DRAFTS May 4, 2009

First Annual AGM MGABC a) outline

b) Announcement

Master Gardener Fact Sheets

MGABC Report- Prince George May 11, 2009

DRAFT MGABC Education Committee Terms of Reference – May 7, 2009

Respectfully submitted, Heather Nielsen, Secretary

