

MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday September 9, 2009

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

PRESENT: Lynne Christmas, Linda Derkach, Ron Fawcett, Pam Harrison, Hope Hilliard, Leslie Ingram, Penny Koch, Susan Lazar, Wendy McIntyre, Heather Nielsen, Barry Roberts, Linda Sears,

REGRETS: Jan Hemming, Sheila Malbeuf

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 11:13a.m.
 - b) Adoption of Amended Agenda with addition of business items:
 - Chapter Problem (Vancouver)
 - Annual Report
 - c) Approval of Minutes from June 9/09 m/s/c Leslie / Penny

2. **Chapter Problem (Vancouver)** Barry and Lynne

Barry explained that VBGA are not happy with the fact our Guides, who are also MG's, are not able to claim their Guide hours towards MG Outreach hours. (This topic was discussed at the earlier Vancouver Chapter Meeting) VBGA wants more MG's to work as Guides. Guiding is: public education, garden tours, history of the garden, plant ID, etc.

Barry wished to know if there were any implications for other Chapters if Vancouver changed their policy. Linda S. said there would be no implications for Summerland. Linda D. said some Vancouver Island MG's work at the shop at Milner Gardens and are allowed to collect 1 hour for each 5 questions they answer for the public. Perhaps there are 25 Guides who are also MG's.

Further discussion followed on politics of this matter. MG/Guides would still be required to fulfill 15 hours of community outreach outside VanDusen.

It was agreed there would be no ramifications of this policy change for other Chapters.

3. **Chapter Reports**

Summerland- Linda Sears

Several MG's, led by senior Master Gardeners and partnering with First Nations groups, have been involved in a city beautification projects in Kelowna.

The next Basic Training Course will be held in Kelowna and Kamloops commencing September 2010; information has been posted on the MGABC Website.

The AGM will be held in October. One motion to be presented is for a name change to 'Okanagan Master Gardeners'. The group will be seeking people to fill several vacancies on the Executive as well as two new positions: Membership Chair, and Events/ PR Chair.

Vancouver Island- Pam

VIMGA has a new facilitator- Jeff DeJong; new classes commence September 19 with possibly 20 students. Now looking at providing this training every other year but must discuss with V. I. U.

33 people participated in the mandatory orientation including a quiz and discussion of expectations of a Master Gardener which heavily emphasized volunteering.

Good Clinic year; retention rate of MG's is better due to better screening at orientation.

Linda Chalker-Scott has tentatively been booked for a February 2010 VIMGA extra event. Other chapters will be kept posted

Victoria - Hope

Jeff DeJong is also ½ time instructor for Victoria

Next Basic Training session in September

Basic Training: Victoria does a presentation at the end of the course (offered by HCP), before clinic start-up, and tries to encourage those who are keen to become involved.

Some do take the course for their own backyard but others become MG volunteers

Busy summer with many clinics plus 2 workshops: veggie garden and plant ID.

Chapter Reports Continued:

No Executive meetings were held over summer but instead lapsed MG's and Nursery members were invited to a casual meeting to explore "the whys of the ebb and flow" of membership. Some Nursery feedback was to NOT be training MG's while doing clinics. Other MG's quit due to time constraints but they wished to continue the education component. There were also some 'specialists' e.g. Tree Experts, Water experts, and Vegetable experts who were not comfortable with the 'general knowledge' duties required.

Ideas in the works to raise the bar on clinics

Vancouver-Susan

There are more Farmers markets for clinics which MG's enjoy

Advanced Training Program begins next week with 24 Mgs enrolled (this is a provincial course)

Annual Garden Party at VanDusen with strawberry tea June 16 – fewer attended due to change in date but those who came enjoyed a delightful evening

Terra Nova Tour in Richmond June 25 – about 12 Mgs visited this wonderful project started by Ian Lai

Green Roofs Tour July 21 – 33 MG toured the Vancouver Trade and Convention Center with architect Bruce Hemstock and were fascinated to see the roof top garden in action. A brief 10 minute walk to the YWCA on Hornby Street found the group on the fifth floor of a very cosmopolitan building in a busy section of Vancouver office towers in a small pocket of green growing gorgeous plants – mostly food producing with produce delivered to the Vancouver Food Bank on a daily basis by bicycle – supported in many ways by MGS Juliano Pasko and Sarah Bagshaw.

Surrey Garden Tour with Whatcom County, Washington, USA MGS on August 25. About 30 Vancouver MGS were on hand to host our visitors across the border. About 35 Washington MGS arrived by bus to tour gardens created by Barry Roberts, Mel Falkner, and Joan Bentley – delightful and interesting idea exchange day.

Dr. Alan Reid spoke at the annual September meeting of Guides/MG on September 8 to an audience of over 100 people. His Talk, "One Sheep, Two Sheep", an informative, humorous overview of New Zealand – its geography, natural history, plants and people, was enthusiastically received

Over 50 Mgs are involved in creating the first MG organized, managed and produced Event for the Public at VanDusen Gardens on Saturday October 3 from 10-2pm. Called **Bountiful Urban Garden Fair**, posters of Rosie the Riveter of WW2 ilk have been distributed all over the lower mainland. VanDusen has given it a tremendous boost with lots of help by Publicity Director, Nancy Wong. There are 4 speakers talking about "Herbs for Health", "Bees in Your Garden", "All about Insects", and "Sustainable Gardening": there are booth activities demonstrating Native Gardening; Healing Gardens; How to set up a winter Container Garden; Design Problems in Your Garden; Insects; Composting; Kids Korner with murals on what would be in your garden, small stone painting, insect tattoos; and a Master Gardener Panel with Resources (books and so on in the center of it all); and last but not least a market area with produce and creations for sale grown and made by Master Gardeners.

Prince George- N/A

Pam said that it is incumbent upon Council members and chapters to participate with the rest of Council

4. Summerland Chapter – Provincial Policy Review – Linda

Discussion followed on Linda's document. Council reaffirmed that the Basic Program Training is a 2-year course, the precedent being set with sufficient volunteer hours required in both years before a Master Gardener certificate is awarded.

5. Plans for 2009 AGM- Hope

Hope gave the timelines for the AGM:

- 4:00-5:00 pm Registration 'Meets and Greet'
- 5:00-5:45 AGM / Meeting (no nominations from the floor allowed at this time)
- 5:45-6:00 pm Floral Display Demo
- 6:15-7:00 pm Refreshments
- 7:00-8:00 pm Keynote speaker > 9 pm Ferry to Mainland

It was agreed bookmark promo not needed

Jan has organized community booths: Lee Valley, etc

Lunch (\$12.75) is available at Glendale Gardens, large seating capacity (100) in greenhouse

Chapter organization needed:

Attendance figures deadline October 29th

Would Council allow MG's to bring a friend (agreed) possible nominal charge of \$5

Susan to arrange bus for Vancouver

Pam asked if there would be any financial assistance from Council for people traveling from up Island. Hope said there was nothing in the budget to provide for that.

A round of applause was given to Jan (absent) for all her hard work

6. Awards (all nominations required by Jan. 31st) - Barry/ All

Forms given to council:

Award of Merit (Provincial)

Long Time Service Award (Provincial)

Outstanding Service Award (Chapter)

Discussion of Award Pins and wording: VanDusen Master Gardeners- no decision reached

7. Spring Seminar- Lynne (This is a Provincial Fundraiser)

One speaker confirmed, Lynne has another meeting with committee after the B.U.G. fair Oct. 3

Volunteers will be needed for silent auction, billeting. Barry will do vendors again. Ron was volunteered to take care of registrations. Joan Bentley will run the plant sale, Pat Taylor on the Welcome Table
Barry wondered about input from other Chapters. Hope suggested a wine and cheese event on Saturday night.

It was agreed to we need more promotion to fill the theatre – begin in January

8. Green Pages- Heather

There are 33 members businesses listed on Green Pages (within Members link)

29 of these had and were contacted via e-mail to ask for feedback/opinions of MG Green Pages. This was included in the body of the e-mail:

(Excerpt from MGABC Provincial Guidelines: Commercial Activities:

The title Master Gardener must not be used for the purpose of advertising at a place of business. Master Gardeners provide unbiased information to the public as volunteers. Appearing as a commercial activity, having association with commercial products, or giving implied endorsement of any product or place of business is not appropriate.

There were 11 responses of which 6 members either felt Green Pages were inappropriate in accordance with the above policy or did not care about the listing as they had never received communication from it. 5 members felt it was a positive perk to allow networking with other members or to give people a sense of how varied and skilled our Master Gardener group is and wished to have it remain.

Discussion followed on difficulties faced by other Chapter members who are looking at the Green Pages and wondering why they cannot advertise their businesses if it is allowed on the MGABC Website. Several

points were made: 1. that it was not appropriate at all for MGs to advertise their gardening or other businesses on the MG website as it is a clear conflict of interest and 2. This seemed to be a Vancouver use of the website and not widely understood by all members and 3. It sets a poor example when trying to make members understand that advertising their businesses while acting as an MG was inappropriate.

To remove the MGABC website Green Pages due to it being a clear conflict of interest

m/s/c Linda D/ Wendy McIntyre

Heather is to advise those 33 people with businesses listed on the website of the Council decision

9. MGABC Council Slate 2010

Nominees: Rebecca Black, Joy Posyniak, Nini Taylor > 2 members are still needed

In accordance with Bylaws we need to publish nominees by September 26. Notification will be via MG ADMIN. Mail will be sent to those members not on e-mail.

Barry will send out notification ASAP (2 weeks prior to AGM)

Nomination Form on website ASAP- must be returned to Nominating Committee as least 6 weeks prior to Provincial AGM (Prov. Guidelines 2.1)

It was again pointed out that some of the bylaws, certainly those around Nominations procedures and deadlines, are not working, for the second year in a row.

10. Education Committee Report- Linda D.

a) Terms of Reference

m/s/c Linda D. / Linda S.

b) MGABC Education Committee Work Plan 2009

Discussion on work plan: Hope said she would send results from Victoria for #14

Linda S asked about #7 Community Outreach Activities- opinions are needed from Chapters

#17 Evaluate Evaluations from Chapters. – This is a big thing we need to look at

Item F. There is NO evaluation section of A/T

#12 Best Practices Model for new Chapters: Linda S. thought a Council Member could liaise with Ed. Cmt.

#16 how do we keep manual current w/o a rewrite? BC Supplement for Provincial info and then each

Chapter could have leeway for additional materials

Linda S. spoke of the 'Hitchhikers Guide to Basic Training' a review written by some students a few years ago.

Lynne asked if there was any way people could pick up info/courses in A/T off years or in other areas.

c) DRAFT Terms of Reference & Agreement between the Ed. Cmt. of MGABC and A/T

Promotion is needed, Province has resources to help. Barry reminded the group the whole principal of this council is to bring Chapters together.

MOTION to accept the DRAFT as presented

m/s/c Linda D. / Lynne

*** Speakers Group Discussion on future agenda**

11. Website 2010- Barry

i. Website should feature highly in our objectives. Barry asked how many council members use the website (50%) Pam mentioned that she is pleased with the improvements in the website vis a vis VIMGA's representation there, and will try to make sure it is updated. She sees one role of the website to be attracting the public, and not only MGABC members. Susan suggested how better promo is needed to our members. Linda S. advised putting something in an upcoming newsletter

ii. Discussion of Website Clinic Sign-up: Both Lynne and Leslie vehemently opposed this as being far too labour intensive. Too many changes occur, initial e-mail sign up and 'the book' are fine, and save for printing costs the present system is fine.

Master list could and should be sent out electronically (Vancouver Chapter matter)

All council members were encouraged to become familiar with our website

12. Newsletter/ Chapter Information needed in each issue!

Barry has been very pleased with recent Newsletters containing Chapter information yet September was only Vancouver info. Newsletter liaison needs to be reminded of other Chapters; it is up to each Chapter to forward info. More provincial pages are needed and clarification of 'Vancouver Clinics' rather than 'Clinics' etc. Each title needs to make clear whether the topic is of a chapter or a provincial nature.

13. Treasurer's Report Ron Fawcett

\$3,000 has recently been received from VanDusen, \$1,000 from Vancouver Parks Board and \$3,800 from Basic Training. We now have \$14,749 towards Fact Sheets

a) Ron spoke to Financial Statements:

Income Statement as @ August 31, 2009

Balance Sheet as @ August 31, 2009

m/s/c Susan/ Pam

m/s/c Pam/ Hope

b) Cheques Issued June 09 through August 09

c) Budget 2010

Discussion of line items: Fact Sheets new line item. Linda S. asked about AGM Line item in revenue and asked why MG's shouldn't be expected to pay something. Guests could pay nominal \$5 fee for admission. Lynne mentioned MGABC needs to look at having equipment acquired under insurance policy.

Motion to accept the MCABC Budget 2010 (This is a balanced Budget)

m/s/c Penny/ Linda S.

14. Fact Sheets

Cost of printing is now \$6960 U.S.

Motion to accept and sign Print Order

m/s/c Lynne/ Hope

15. Other /New Business: Organic Master Gardener Program

Hope and Heidi get together occasionally to exchange information. Organic MG program has no solid association, loose frame work and no follow-up process. One big issue is that graduates of this program are encouraged to take the course for professional reasons and to use 'Certified Master Gardener' on business cards/ for professional services. Another is that the term Master Gardener is used for this program but there is no accountability of volunteering infrastructure, the whole point of being an MG.

Leslie reported they have an application (2007) for a trademark on the name. Hope said Heidi likes the concept of 'service' and our organizational model. Barry suggested we offer a Master Gardener Organic Gardener Course / Workshop for the public.

16. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Nielsen, Secretary

Next MGABC Executive Meeting will be **Wednesday October 14, 11:00 a.m.**

Handouts attached

Agenda

June 09, 09 Minutes

Summerland Chapter Problem

MGABC Provincial Guidelines: Awards Policy (May 18, 2009)

Nomination Forms – Outstanding Service & Award of Merit

MGABC Council Members 2010 Slate

MGABC (DRAFT) Education Committee

- Terms of Reference
- Work Plan 2009
- Terms of Reference and Agreement Between Education Committee of MGABC and the
Advanced Training Program Committee

MGABC Website 2009 General Statistics

Cheques issued June 2009 through August 2009

Financial Statements:

Income Statement as @ August 31, 2009

Balance Sheet as @ August 31, 2009

Balance Sheet as @ July 30, 2009