

MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC
Full Council Meeting AGM
Friday, November 27, 2009
Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney BC
Leadbetter Board Room 9:00 am start

PRESENT: Barry Roberts, Lynne Christmas, Ron Fawcett, Leslie Ann Ingram, Linda Derkach, Susan Lazar, Sheila Malbeuf, Pam Harrison, Linda Sears, Jan Hemming, Hope Hilliard, Wendy MacIntyre. Sue Wright (acting Secretary)

REGRETS: Heather Nielsen

New 2010 council members did not attend.

1. a) Call to Order – Barry called the meeting to order at 9:05 am
b) Adoption of Agenda M/S/C Wendy / Linda S
c) Approval of Minutes from September 9/09 M/S/C Leslie / Ron
2. **Treasurer's Report** (same as presented to AGM) Ron
Pam: query re Newsletter and postage. Informed not all members have emails (generally Lower Mainland)
Ron reported Cheques issued
10/14 \$ 82.58 (Barry – Fact Sheet Binders)
10/27 \$157.24 (Min of Finance: H&G Pest Guides)
10/31 \$ 80.87 (Whatcom donation: MGABC to Vancouver Chapter)
M/S/C Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report as posted. Susan / Linda D

3. Council Slate for 2010

Barry reported there are 16 positions, with 3 vacancies.

M/S/C acceptance of 2010 slate Ron / Linda D

Nominating Committee to fill 2010 positions:

- President Elect: Jan Hemming
- VP Planning & Governance: Linda Sears
- One of 3 vacancies to be filled from Vancouver Chapter Exec mtg Dec 10
- Other 2 vacancies: looked at other outlying areas but no volunteers

4. Plans for Handover to 2010 Council

Lynne will pass all binders etc to Jan

Leslie handoff to Linda S: Linda S stated all incoming new council members should be receiving electronic copy of Policy. Discussion that in future, this should be on website (once protected).

Leslie: Standards document has not gone into Policy; still needs to be added. Policy is currently 2.1 plus updates: next version should be 2.2

Barry stated the January Council meeting will be for assigning specific duties

5. OMG – open discussion by all members

Pam spoke to VIMGA's paper. Linda S felt MGABC should not offer courses to public but could share with public our sustainable organic practices while being non-profit and volunteer-based, but warned against getting into course content. Hope recommended treading carefully: there are course differences (Gaia's focus is soil, no Plant ID) and their focus is profit, issue re use of OMG naming especially on the Island. Leslie reported Heide Hermary (Gaia) has Canadian Trademark in process for OMG use (filed May 07, approved Aug 09, now in protest period). Jan asked whether it is possible to talk further with Heide, and discussed conflict HCP (Victoria MG educator) has with them. Pam felt uncomfortable re overtures to HH; their volunteer hours are insignificant while whole VIU structure is supported by volunteer commitment (as is true for other MGABC chapters). Leslie stated Master Gardener copyright is owned in USA (fencing) and can't own multi-concepts; need to emphasize the volunteer aspect. Junior Master Gardener copyright application is running in Ontario now. Susan stated many of our MGs don't feel comfortable with

MG name, and to start emphasizing we are Volunteers in all we do. Ron commented we can't own marketplace, so define our role.

5. OMG (continued)

We need to maintain presence in the community:

Different focus: enthusiastic gardeners, soil specific. Never suggested running Organic courses, maybe just a 1 day workshop. (Barry)

Emphasize what we do rather than try explain what OMG does (Linda D)

Should be handled as a chapter issue, but develop a provincial concept which could be picked up by chapters (Linda D, Barry)

Fundamental: our course is sustainable, environmentally organic and concentrate on volunteer portions (Lynne)

Barry recommended taking the VIMGA report and changing it to read MGABC throughout, and eliminate BTP references as some Chapters have profit-based BTP providers. Pam pointed out that VIMGA felt it could only speak for its association, but recognized the MGABC support for this issue now. She will rework the document and circulate it.

Vote: If there were an organic one-day workshop, would you offer it in your Chapter?

(1 vote per chapter: 4 yes, 1 against, 1 abstained)

It was recommended that course content be left to individual Education Committees at Chapter level.

Motion: That MGABC contest the trademark application of OMG. M/S Barry / Linda D

Discussion: Leslie stated protest cost is \$750; Linda D stated likely HH would still use the term OMG so it might be a wasted effort.

DEFEATED: 1 yes vote/balance against

Short discussion re Vancouver OMG letter to VanDusen: intent was only to stop VanDusen offering any courses with MG name.

6. Trademark Application – 1) Dogwood logo with wording 2) MGABC

Leslie updated status: submitted March 2008, now in protest period (approx 6 months); once approved it has a 15 yr life, and can be renewed. These are our image and branding: they should be on all documents. Next steps: await final decision, and maintain visible use.

ACTION: Future Agenda item: Branding of MGABC – stress the voluntary aspect (Hope)

7. Expenses for today

Current policy: no accommodation paid; mileage plus ferry (full travel) less 100 miles

8. Schedule of 2010 Council Meetings

Barry proposed minimum of 4 Full Council Meetings – 3rd Thursdays

Thursday, January 21, 2010 venue: Vancouver

Thursday, April 15, 2010 venue: Vancouver

Thursday, September 16, 2010 venue: Vancouver

Thursday, November 18, 2010 venue: TBA (combine with AGM)

Susan asked whether possible to reposition AGM (requires Bylaws change). Consensus that Council meetings in Vancouver is most cost-effective option. Also, the November Council meeting needs to precede the AGM, so not in today's situation.

Discussion re Interim periods: issues dealt by email are not effective. Linda S said work should be done by committee to develop recommendations/final implementation proposals – then council makes decisions. Goals/Objectives/Priorities = Committees.

Consensus: full council meetings are required if matters arise, not executive interim meetings. When there are a number of issues, then call an extra Council Meeting.

Short discussion re Google Group: problems with getting on. Is it too complicated?

Guidelines for communicating:

12. Chapter Reports (as submitted to all Council, prior to meeting)

Okanagan/Kamloops – Linda S stated Okanagan MG has 41 members, and Thompson Shuswap has 26 members.

Prince George – Sheila revised MG count from 17 to 11. Currently 17 students, 11 MGs and 12 MGIT in 2nd year. Reminder also to send Q&A sheets to Vancouver.

Vancouver, Victoria and VIMGA – no changes to reports

Other issues:

- Students don't go on to Membership list until after 'Test' results are known.
- Anomalies on Prov Membership List: keep feeding changes of info

13. 2009 Objectives Review

Agreed that time should be spent looking forward to 2010 rather than review 2009.

Goal Setting for 2010 – info sharing by Council

Linda S

Form an Affiliation Committee (or sub-committee)

LS to look at own version of Supplement, and will take changes to Educ Committee

Vol hrs: looking at equivalencies; want well before sign-up for Clinics. Will share.

History of association: Barry asked all Past Presidents to write history/Chapters working on too – resend requests to all Chapters, with suggested format. Future use: available on website

Pam

Terms of Reference for Affiliation committee (January timing)

Policies & Procedures: has Membership section been redone? Leslie said done in 2.1 rev.

Guidelines in setting up chapters – refer to Affiliations Committee

BTP: need consistency in type and quality of homework questions

What constitutes volunteer hours?

Jan

Succession Planning: both Chapters and Provincial Council

Communication Strategies and Branding

Linda D

Look at Bylaws and draft some possible amendments for our next AGM: perhaps too restrictive

Sheila

Financial forecasting out 3-5 years

Barry

Work as a group: common logo. Linda D and Linda S felt that "to the exclusion of others" is too restrictive. Lynne felt using both logos more beneficial. Ensure Mission Statement is basically similar in all chapters.

Pam said chapters should retain their individuality, but also show Dogwood affiliation – requested PMT for Dogwood. Lynne said MGABC has letterhead. **ACTION:** Lynne to email all Chapters both B&W and colour PMTs.

Documentation: need consistency.

Linda D pointed out the name is Vancouver Island MGA is not Central VIMGA

14. Spring Seminar – plans for 2010

Date: March 7, 2010 \$45 pre-register, \$60 at door

Speakers: Lynne report 3 confirmed, awaiting 4th. Camellias (UK) cost \$1000 plus approx \$800 air/accommodation; Carmen Varcoe cost \$150 + ferry; Don Burnett (Kel) cost \$700 and Dan Jason (SSI) cost approx \$250.

Theme: United Nations proclaimed 2010 as International Year of Diversity, so Seminar theme tied in – "A World of Diversity in Your Own Backyard"

Issues: 1) need Silent Auction volunteers

- 2) have manual, contact info for donations, re Silent Auction.
- 3) registration bags (want 500) - ?supplier options
- 4) attendees want shorter lunch/longer vendor time
- 5) request from non-Vancouver chapters: could it start little later (i.e. 10:00 a.m.)

15. Awards

All nominations must be received by Jan. 31, 2010. Forms in MGABC policy.

16. Website

Leslie reported as follows:

Restructuring continues / calendar work

Transition email addresses

Policies & Procedures pdf file is ready; won't have Education Standards – maybe a separate Educ Stds manual.

Next stage: get members area behind password protection (only Vanessa with skills set)

Vancouver Clinics info will go on, once secure site

Victoria: links over to VMGA website in Policies & Procedures

Photo Galley: progressing; not copyright (issue re metadata search ability)

Linda S said she can't take on website, as taking over VP Governance. Leslie hoping to get out; will support a transition, but get up policies etc first. Linda S to get Job Description from Leslie, and then decide if she can take on – January decision.

Contacts to be sent out by Leslie:

- Membership Chair: Pat Taylor
- Website Chair: Karen Shuster
- MGABC Webmaster: David Watkins

17. Newsletter

Anne Marie resigned in August/09, but has maintained it to now.

Recruitment: need to advertise for co-editors on website

18. MG Speakers' Group

Pam queried whether fee allowed, and each Chapter should make own decision. Terms of Reference states "no fees". Historically Vancouver has done for years, but donate back in.

19. Other

Leslie requested that Chapter dates be dropped in Policies and Procedures wording to allow prompt posting on website.

20. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2010. Start time 11:00 a.m. Venue: Cedar Room, VanDusen, Vancouver.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm

Wendy MacIntyre left the meeting at 12:45 pm.

Susan Lazar left the meeting at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Wright (acting Secretary)