

MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 9, 7:30pm

(Note: **MSC** stands for moved, seconded, carried)

Lynn Christmas, MGABC Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

- 1. Welcome and Announcements** – Introduction of new council members, Janet Sawatsky, Linda Sears & Diane Hartley
- Announcement of David Tarrant's farewell lecture on January 25, 2007

2. Presentation of 2005 Graduation Certificates & Pins –Doreen Godwin & Lynne Christmas

3. Speaker: Barbara Bowers introduced; Andrea Lebowitz and Alice Kilian , Coordinators of the MGABC Community Projects who spoke about the varied and interesting opportunities for MGs to achieve their volunteer hours. The December'06 newsletter describes 14 current projects. The goal of the program is a combination of service and education.

Barbara then introduced Melita Thornhill, Coordinator of Emerging Hope Project which works to provide employment opportunities for downtown eastside residents. Melita established and runs this program because she believed that people really want to work and be self reliant. The program is self sustaining and has had a high degree of success in helping residents to develop self respect and good work habits. Melita appealed for donations of various items (see attached list).

Coffee Break: Annual Book Sale

4. MG Business Meeting:

a) Minutes of November 2006 General Meeting: MSC, LizHaan, Doug Courtemanche

a) Business arising from Minutes:

b) Treasurer's Report: Posted on the website and on the board in the Floral Hall

c) Report from Council:

i) Update from morning meeting – Lynne Christmas:

- a full report will be sent out via mgadmin to members

ii) Update Committee Report – Lynne Christmas

- registration forms are available and were mailed out with the newsletter

- looking for a chair for next years Update. It would be a good opportunity for someone to start now and shadow Barbara's team. It would make it easier to take it over next year.

iii) Skills Survey – Lynne Christmas:

-everyone is expected to complete one

-Barry is at the back of the room with blank forms

d) Old Business:

i) Advanced Training – Lynne Christmas for June Pierson

- program will be held this year
- registration forms are available
- deadline for registration is June 12/07

ii) Implementation Report – Susan Lazar

- no difference between advice/non-advice hours
- more recognition awards to be given
- newsletter will be sent out via mgadmin, no more mailing except for those few who do not have email. This is a big cost saving measure.
- coordinators of programs will come to general meetings so that members are aware of what is being done.
- meetings are being restructured so that they flow more easily
- council job descriptions are being updated.

e) New Business:

i) Award of Merit – Lynne Christmas

- nominations must be in to Jack by January 31/07

f) Miscellaneous:

- i) Barry Roberts is working to develop a picture library which will be available to members for their use. Please send Barry your pictures, in whatever form you have them, digital, slides, negatives, etc.
- ii) Council put forward a suggestion that MGABC give \$1000 to the Stanley Park restoration fund. For this week only Jim Pattison is matching dollar for dollar every cent collected through the Global TV Campaign. **MSC Susan Lazar & Andrea Lebowitz**
- iii) Next meeting will be Thursday, Feb 8 – a joint meeting with the Guides

6. Adjournment & Door prizes:

Respectively submitted by: Diane Hartley, Secretary on January 11, 2007