

MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 13, 9:30am
Floral Hall VanDusen Botanical Gardens

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

Lynne Christmas, MGABC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:37am

1. Welcome and Announcements:

Lynne explained that this would be an unusual AGM because we will not have an election of new Council members, but rather an acclamation. We have no speaker because we thought an election would take up the time.

As she does at every meeting, Lynne offered the thanks of all MGs to those who work hard on behalf of MGABC, this month the thanks are directed at those responsible for educating us. Thanks go to Doreen Godwin and her group of mentors for all of the work they do in the Basic Training Program and to June Pierson and her group for their work in the Advance Training Program and to Pat Taylor for her work as our Membership Chair.

Lynne thanked the outgoing members of Council for their service to the membership and introduced Ron Fawcett as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

2. New Council:

Ron explained that nominations closed on September 30 and thanked his committee of Helen Brown, Bob Meighen, Sally Maclachlan and Lori Espeseth.

Ron then introduced the new Council members:

- Barry Roberts, Chair Elect – Class of 2004, currently enrolled in the AT class and just completing a 2year term as Member at Large on Council.
- Susan Lazar, 1st Vice Chair – Class of 2002, just completing a 2 year term as Member at Large on Council.
- Penny Koch, 2nd Vice Chair – Class of 2003, AT in 2005 and a VanDusen Guide.
- Leslie Ann Ingram, Member at Large – Class of 2006, self described “pale green thumb”
- Dana Richardson, Member at Large – Class of 2004
- Ron Fawcett, Treasurer – Class of 2002, currently enrolled in the AT class. Treasurer of BC Council of Garden Clubs

The meeting unanimously and with enthusiasm approved the appointment of these members to Council.

3. Plans for the Future:

Lynne introduced Doug Courtemanche and Jack Grant to explain the Plans and to answer questions from the membership.

Jack wished the new council lots of luck implementing the Plans for the Future and explained that the committee was formed in 2005 to develop the Plan and yesterday presented the 7th Draft of the changes in bylaws to council. The Plans for the Future committee has now completed the mandate and disbanded with the recommendation that Council appoint an Implementation Committee to work through the logistics of changes that will be required to get the Plan working.

Doug spoke to the rationale for the Plan. In 2005 the Council recognized that the organization was growing and expanding and decided that there should be a mechanism in place to direct the growth. The Plans for the Future Committee was struck. It was discovered that although the MGABC is headquartered at VanDusen, most of our membership lives outside of Vancouver proper and the thought is that at some point the membership will grow to be big enough in some

geographic areas to want to have their own Chapter of MGs with the ability to develop activities and programs specific to their own regional/geographic area. We already have Chapters in Summerland and on Vancouver Island. These Chapters use the same Basic Training model as is used at VanDusen with the addition of supplements specific to their geographic differences.

The following is an example of the geographic breakdown that might occur:

3.1.2 Sixteen (16) members elected from throughout the province to give the Council equitable geographic representation.

e.g. Vancouver, Richmond	4 members
North and West Vancouver, Bowen Island	2 members
Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands	2 members
Delta, Tsawassen, Surrey, White Rock, Pt, Roberts	2 members
Burnaby, New Westminster	1 member
Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Pt Moody, Maple Ridge, Pitt meadows	1 member
Abbotsford, Aldergrove, Chilliwack, Langley	1 member
Sechelt	1 member
Summerland and Kamloops	1 member
Prince George	<u>1 member</u>
	Total
	16 members

Questions from the audience:

1. Is Draft 7 written in stone/ could it be amended from the floor? Answer: It is not written in stone, but could not be amended from the floor because our bylaws have been written carefully and vetted by our lawyer. We will present what is seen as the best and the membership will accept or reject it as it is written.
2. Why has the Cttee recommended the change to election of officers by the 16 Council members instead of by the entire membership? Answer: The committee felt that the logistics of nominating members from various geographic areas to specific positions on Council would be very confusing and complex. It is a common practice in organizations that the elected body then elects or appoints people to specific positions.
3. Won't it cost a lot to have members travel to meetings every month? Answer: The 16 member Council will meet only 4 times per year. Each Chapter can hold their own monthly meetings if they choose.
4. Is this structure used in the USA and has Council looked at how expansion has been handled by US MGs? Answer: MG programs in the USA are connected to Colleges/Universities through extension programs and while there is diversity in the programs, setup and activities of individual MG groups, the educational component and standard remains constant throughout all.
5. Are all BC MGs currently members of MGABC? Answer: No, but we are in discussion with some groups with the idea to bring them under our umbrella.

Coffee Break

3. MG Business Meeting:

a) Minutes of October General Meeting: m/s/c Nigel Bunning/Doreen Godwin

b) Treasurer's Report: Posted. The 2008 Budget is not complete and will be presented to the January, 2008 meeting.

c) Report from Council: Lynne reported on the Council meeting held Nov. 12/07

i) A group of Master Gardeners from Dallas Texas is coming to Vancouver in June; we are thinking that we should plan an event.

- ii) The “Garden Path” brochure is being updated and reprinted
- iii) We are planning a Workshop for May/08. Watch for details!!
- iv) If you are interested in doing clinics early in the new year, email Diane Hartley
- v) Christmas Party is Sunday, December 16/07, 2pm – 5pm. Please bring finger food, food bank donations and your coffee mug. Coffee, tea and wine will be provided. Doug Courtemanche has kindly offered his services with the wine again.

4) Miscellaneous:

- a) Sharon Hanna appealed for help with the Queen Alexandra wreath and swag making. Contact Sharon if you can offer your time or decorations that can be used by the students to make their wreaths & swags.
- b) Judy Zipursky asked people to sign up for bringing goodies to the Jan’08 meeting

6. Motion to adjourn & Door prizes: The meeting adjourned at 11:03

Respectfully submitted by: Diane Hartley, Secretary