

# **MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday, February 14, 2008  
Joint Meeting with VanDusen Guides  
Floral Hall VanDusen Botanical Garden**

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

Claire Kermacks, Guide Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

## **1. Welcome and Announcements**

**2. Speaker:** Marnie McGregor spoke to the group about the long term plans to create a public space that balances the need for green space with the PNE and other economic activities at Hastings Park. Marnie gave a short history of Hastings Park from creation in 1889 through to 2008. There are plans for a green connector between Hastings Park and New Brighton Park as well as Olympic Venue landscaping. There was discussion of the continuing issue of governance of Hastings Park and what role master gardeners could/would play in the future of the park. The large audience was presented with thought provoking information.

## **Coffee Break**

After a delicious coffee break the Guides moved to the Cedar room for their business meeting and the Master Gardeners remained in the Floral Hall.

## **3. MG Business Meeting:**

### **Announcements:**

Marina Princz announced the initial planning meeting for the VanDusen Book Club would be held at noon in the library.

Ann Kent announced Spring for Education, an event to profile the education program at VanDusen, to be held March 1, 10am – 2pm in the Floral Hall. Ann requested 2 mgs to set up a clinic at the event. Ann also thanked mgs for distributing flyers around the lower mainland and appealed for further distribution of a supply of flyers she brought with her.

Joyce Fitz-Gibbon reminded mgs that there are 14 community projects ongoing that require volunteers. The sign up book is at VanDusen along with the clinic sign up book.

Jean Hobbs announced that there are some very special prizes to be auctioned off at the Spring Seminar. For example, a round of golf for 4, a 4 night stay in a Gabriola cottage, so bring your cheque book to the Spring Seminar!

Colleen Martin encourages everyone to attend the seminar, speakers are Dr. Iain Taylor who will speak on genetically engineered plants, Kim Sutherland from the Dept. of Agriculture will speak on food safety, John Bishop, chef & restaurant owner who will, along with Gary King of Hazelmere Organics, talk about using local foods and sustainability.

Lynne Christmas announced that the books left over after Seedy Saturday will be given to Marina Princz for her book sale.

### **a) Minutes of previous meeting:**

Minutes of November 2007 General Meeting and the January, 2008 meetings m/s/c Doug Coutemanche/Nigel Bunning

**a) Business arising from Minutes: none**

**b) Treasurer's Report:** Ron posted the current financial statement and the 2008 Budget for member's perusal. Our bank balance stands at approx, \$2500 and we have assets of approx \$16,000 in term deposits. The budget will be a balanced budget and will be discussed at the council meeting to follow this general meeting and if approved will be brought back to the membership next meeting. Ron is working toward integrating the training budgets with the general accounts. Ron suggested that he would like to have an outside accountant do a mini audit of our accounts.

**c) Old business:**

**i)** bylaws have been distributed by email and regular mail to all members. These are to be voted on at the April, 2008 meeting. Questions from the floor: June Pierson- if we vote for these changes, will they come into effect immediately? Answer: Council will start to set up a Vancouver/lower mainland chapter and separate out the Provincial body quite quickly upon approval of the bylaws, but individual chapters such as South Surrey/N.Vancouver, etc will only become a reality when people from an area are ready to put in the work of developing their own chapters. Question: Are there plans to initiate a dues structure? Answer: not at this time, but it may become necessary in the future and the bylaws will allow for that possibility. Question: Can we accept only part of these proposed bylaws and reject other parts? Answer: No, if you do not accept the entire package you must reject the entire package, but amendments to the new bylaws could be made in the future. Question: Who gets to vote, what is a quorum and can we do a mail in ballot? Answer: Only qualified mgs who are present at the meeting will be entitled to vote, and a quorum is 25 people. There is no provision for a mail in ballot. **Everyone is encouraged to attend the April meeting to vote on this very important issue.**

**Motion to adjourn & Door prizes:** There being no further business the door prizes were drawn and the meeting adjourned at 11:45am

Respectfully submitted by: Diane Hartley, Secretary