

JCCW/MG BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. and the agenda was passed out.

Members present: Lynn Flood, Anne Odle, Dave Banks, Judy Hansen, Jean Winters, Barbara Gustafson, Charlie Clapper, Sarah Dougherty

Members Absent: Leanne Dubois, Pat Crowe

The minutes of the August 17th board meeting were approved.

VMGA Report: Anne Odle indicated that the next VGMA meeting will be held on October 13th at Greenspring Gardens in Fairfax County. The meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. A box lunch is available for purchase. There will be a tour of the gardens after the meeting. Anne also reported that JCC/W will host the December 8th meeting. The meeting will be held at the First Colony Clubhouse from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and is open to all master gardeners. Anne and Angela Cingale are coordinators for the meeting and they will need help with the set up. Anne is pursuing the possibility of having Bryan Noyes of the Soil and Water Conservation District present at 1:00 p.m. An article with more information will be in the newsletter for next month.

MG Awards: Minouche Robinson is heading the Awards Nominating Committee. The nomination process will be discussed at the next general membership meeting on October 4th. Nomination forms are available on the website as well as at the November meeting. The deadline for nominations is set at December 1st. There was some discussion about the need for creating a new form that requires some justification for nominating a member for an award. Sarah Dougherty will represent the board on this committee.

MG Programs:

Jean Winters indicated that speaker scheduled for the October meeting had a conflict and had to cancel. He hopes to reschedule next year. Carol Fryer and Anne Nielson will present a discussion of their experiences at Master Gardener College. There was some discussion about having Karen Jamison provide the group with an update on the Williamsburg Botanical Gardens.

For the November meeting, Nicole Schermerhorn of Lavender Fields Herb Farm will discuss herbs for the holidays. This will cost us \$75. There was some discussion about asking her to have some of the herbs that she uses available for sale to the members. The board was in general agreement that having a few of these herbs for sale at the meeting would be a good idea.

For the December meeting, Jean had contacted Dan Cristol of William and Mary College to do a presentation on birds of the Williamsburg area. He was not available but suggested the name of a graduate student that might be available to present the topic “Blue Birds of Williamsburg.” There was some discussion among board members as to

the relevance of the topic but it was generally decided that since birds are large part of the gardening environment, it would be a relevant topic. Jean will pursue contacting this individual to present to the membership.

Next year's program will continue to emphasize environment issues and how they tie in with gardening. The possibility of having Anne Hewitt do a presentation on the Powatan Watershed sometime next year was proposed.

Jean would like us to consider increasing our gift to the library. Last year we gave them \$250. She also asked the board to consider writing a check to Dept of Game and Inland Fisheries for workshops on fish, birds, and mussels. This was approved and a check was made out to the Treasurer of Virginia—Non-Game Fund after the meeting.

Vacant Positions:

Seeds of Learning (SOL): Lynn Flood reported that she had not heard from Mary Ann Kimminau as to whether she has been contacted by anyone willing to take over the chairmanship of the Seeds of Learning Program. There was some discussion among board members on this issue. It was decided that it would be an embarrassment to our organization if we cannot keep this program alive. The possibility was suggested of having all those who took part in past SOL programs meet after the next general membership meeting to discuss how to keep it going. Lynn said she would arrange this meeting. **Action: Lynn will present results of SOL meeting at the next board meeting.**

MG Picnic: Numerous appeals to the general membership did not produce a coordinator for this year's picnic. Possible messages being delivered by this lack of interest: members do not want to act as coordinators or perhaps members are not particularly concerned about the social aspects of membership. The possibility was discussed of having the picnic in conjunction with a general membership meeting in May or June of next year. York River State Park was proposed as a possible site for having a nature walk first followed by a picnic. Family members would be welcome. This idea was passed on to Jean for consideration in planning a possible late spring program.

Project Chair Meeting:

Judy Hansen reported that a meeting will be held this fall for all project chairs. The goals for the meeting include: lessons learned, goals for next year, the need for extra help, project chair successors, having risk management plans in place. Judy's goals include emphasizing bringing fun back into the process, keeping the meeting short, emphasizing that this is a healing year, emphasizing the need for project chair meetings to keep abreast of what other projects are doing for exchange of ideas and materials. Dave Banks indicated that the lack of meetings would risk development of suborganizations that don't talk to one another. Our projects do not stand alone—they affect one another. Continuing to emphasize the importance of all projects to our community needs to be stressed.

Other Projects Discussion:

A brief discussion was held about our volunteer program at the Colonial Williamsburg greenhouse and Judy indicated that she would report on this project at next month's board meeting. **Action: Judy will report on the CW greenhouse project.**

Jean Winters reported that March 3rd will be Projects Day for the new class of 2008. Mary Liz Sadler has expressed some reservations about the format used in past years where all the projects set up display tables and students visit each table for information on the project. Feedback from the Class of 2007 indicated that this wasn't helpful in learning enough about the projects. It was suggested that all project chairs present to the 2008 class limiting their presentation to five minutes and also providing handouts. Judy said that she would discuss this at the project chair meeting.

Lynn indicated the need for updating project descriptions on the various handouts and the website as well. Updating the list of core projects is also needed. Core projects for 2008 should be decided by the December meeting. Projects in need of volunteers and presenting a variety of experiences form the criteria for core projects. Charlie Clapper indicated that this is a perennial problem and that the list of core projects should be in place by the start of the next class. Judy said that she was in favor of leaving the list of core projects for the Class of 2008 the same as last year. This issue will be revisited after the project chair meeting. Lynn indicated that the Pruning Clinic headed by Carol Fryer was added as a project. **Action: Revisit issue of deciding which projects should be core projects.**

Plant Sale 2008:

Barbara Gustafson reported that the committee has met and workshops to get more people involved are being set up. Lois Endow and Dan Tevlin are coordinating this effort. Barbara will send a flyer to the board members with further information and will include the information in the newsletter. **Action: Barbara will send flyer to board members, website and newsletter.**

Mission/Goals:

Barbara Gustafson and Charlie Clapper gave an overview of what work had been done by the previous board including the results of the previous project chair meeting as well as feedback from members via the town meeting that was held. The members had expressed concern over the vision for the future of our organization and felt that community outreach goals should be listed first in the Vision/Goals document. The membership also expressed concerns about the process of revising the vision and goals and that the board was not listening to their concerns.

Barbara reviewed the documents that were sent via e-mail to board members recently and it was discovered that some board members were missing pieces of the documents. Barbara and Charlie will compile a simplified updated version of the documents that were a result of previous meetings and further discussion will take place at future board meetings. **Action: Charlie and Barbara will send board members a compiled version of the vision/goals document and discussion will continue.**

The mission statement, as previously sent to the board members by Barbara, was discussed and it was decided that it was appropriate and relevant for our organization. Dave suggested it be included in the final Vision/Goals document.

New Projects:

Adams Garden: Judy Hansen informed the board about a garden that is located on the corner of Richmond and Boundary Roads that is in need of someone to maintain it. This garden is a mature English cottage garden that serves as a memorial to a former professor from William & Mary. The garden is being maintained by Madeline Watkinson but she has been informed by her doctor to stop her efforts. Judy wondered if this was something to consider for us as it would be an opportunity to work with William & Mary. The board discussed the possibility but some were concerned that it sounded more like a maintenance project only and needed to be tied to an objective. The decision was made to table it and do more research. It was also suggested that we obtain Pat Rathke's opinion. **Action: More research is needed on the feasibility of taking over this project.**

Botanical Garden: Helen Hamilton would like to consider giving tours to preschool age children. There is no risk management plan in place. The board decided that she should present a proposal to the board. Apparently, the co-chairs have backed out of the project so the project is need of a co-chair and a risk management plan.

Mobile MG Unit: This project also needs a risk management plan. Judy moved that this proposal be accepted as a project and was seconded by Dave. The proposal needs to be presented at the next general membership meeting for approval. **Action: Proposed project needs to be presented to the general membership.**

Habitat for Humanity: Cindy Halliday has approached Barbara to talk about further involvement in the Habitat for Humanity program. Some of the board members expressed concern for the current state of the gardens in the April's House project. Questions have been raised, such as can the homeowner afford to water the gardens and is it a good investment of our resources if the gardens are doomed to fail. Some board members would like reviews of current projects be done as this would help with planning future projects. **Action: Judy will contact Cindy about the project.**

Other Business:

Dave Banks will not attend the next general membership meeting. Judy will chair the meeting.

Anne Odle asked if she should continue presenting the VMGA reports at the general membership meetings or should she report them electronically only. The general consensus was that the VMGA report is an important piece of our organization in that it provides us with insight into what other MG organizations are involved in. It was suggested that the reports given at the general membership meetings be limited to 3 minutes highlighting the more important issues affecting our organization with more detailed information provided in electronic form. It was suggested that Anne contact Mary Liz Sadler about the possibility of doing a presentation of the VMGA to the new class. **Action: Anne will contact Mary Liz about a presentation.**

Judy requested that a list of project chairs be sent to her so that she won't leave any one out of the project chair meeting to be held soon. **Action: Lynn will send her a list of project chairs.**

Agenda item for next month's board meeting: We will discuss the water steward and tree steward programs with regard to their organizational structures and relationship with our master gardener organization. Judy will do some research on the internet to find out what water steward and tree steward groups are doing in other states. **Action: Art Gustafson will be asked to provide a list of volunteer hours on each of the members of these two groups.**

Progress on video program: Leanne Dubois has requested volunteers for replacing plants. She has sent e-mail on the progress of filming the video.

Procedural Issues:

Dave reminded the board members to check over the action item list to make sure that action items are followed through on. We will start subsequent board meetings with feedback provided by each person as to the status of their own piece of this.

Dave also mentioned that one shouldn't assume that your e-mails are being ignored. Assume that person didn't get it and send it again. Then place a phone call to the person if you still haven't heard back in a reasonable amount of time.

Next board meeting will be held on October 19th at 9:00 a.m. at the Health and Human Services Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

