

Present: Charlie Clapper, John Giffin, Jeanne Millin, Linda Weber, Dave Banks, and Carol Fryer

REPORTS:

VP Administration: Membership- John noted that the member hours have been up-dated. Art sent John a spreadsheet of the hours last weekend. Letters of re-certification will hopefully be done by June 1st.

Issues: 1) guidelines are needed for publicity releases and we need a release of information form. Therapeutic gardening has a release form, that John will review and develop a generic form for the organization.

2) membership – to what degree do we want inactive members to maintain inactive status? Discussion: need for skill up-dating might be a factor requiring inactive members to take workshops before re-instituting active membership status. It was suggested that inactive status not be carried indefinitely. A suggestion was made to consider a category of associate membership for those MGs who no longer want to be active, but still wish to support the organization.

Action: Issue needs further research/discussion.

VP Projects: Jeanne Millin reporting. Charlie, Carol and Jeanne met regarding projects' need to meet the mission of the organization. Although some current project may not necessarily have a clear educational component, it would be difficult to make drastic changes and/or eliminate existing projects. It is important to focus on our mission with new proposed projects, with existing projects, and with each new training class.

List of projects: It will be the duty of the VPs to compile project descriptions for projects that are in the domain of each VP – administration, community projects, internal education. Each list will be given to the secretary for compilation into one list for our website and/or publications.

Note: this year Jeanne has compiled the lists of projects which will be sent to Dave Banks for the website. If additions are needed, send them to Dave Banks.

Issues: 1) current projects and requested services that may not have a component of educating the community in horticultural and environmental sustainability. An example is Helen Hamilton's request for MG hours for gardening help in the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG).

It was suggested that WBG be asked if they would like MGs to do a demo project rather than just maintenance work at Ellipse Garden.

Jeanne will meet the project chairs to review projects and how they are meeting our mission. Project descriptions will be written with educational goals included.

Jean distributed a new project form that incorporates our mission. The form will be on our website.

VP Internal Education: Carol Fryer reporting

Carol and Jeanne will talk with Mary Liz Sadler and Reba Hazlewood about emphasizing our mission with each training class, expectations to fulfill commitments to projects during internships, and the development of leadership roles. Inquiries about leadership experiences might be added to the application and discussed during the interviews.

Risk management training is scheduled for the June monthly meeting. A second training will be scheduled at VCE Toano office in the fall with Dave Close via an Internet Connection for those members that are unable to attend the June meeting.

Risk Management: The board agreed that it is important for each class to have risk management training even if it means adding on a make-up class. For the last 2 yrs., the training class has missed risk management training because of cancellations due to illness and/or weather.

Action: Carol will meet with Mary Liz and Reba.

Field Trip for next year: The Education Committee would like to offer a full day field trip next year to one of our major garden site, such as the National Arboretum

Suggestions made for other sites to consider include: Kennilworth Water Garden on the Anacostia River (Nat'l park); the National Botanical Garden in DC, Dunbarton Oaks in DC, and the American Horticulture Garden, (great suggestions)

Susan Voigt was suggested an excellent resource for information about bus companies, etc. (CW experience in organizing field trips).

Issue: If the current training program coordinators decide not to remain in their positions beyond this next year, there will be no trained MG coordinator for future classes.

Action: Carol will suggest adding a member to the training team this coming year who would be willing to assume the leadership of the program for the following year or two.

Secretary: No report. Send any corrections for April's minutes to Pat Janot.

Treasurer: No report.

VMGA Representatives: Nelda and Jim Pressly reporting.

MG scholarships were discussed. It was suggested and approved by the Board that we offer Linda Lucas \$100 toward her cost of attending MG leadership training during MG College week at VT.

For next year, the Board needs to develop an application form and announce the availability of a MG college scholarship application as early as January 2010..

Other non-VMGA :

Therapeutic Gardening has a program at Envoy Nursing Home. Jim built two planter boxes for the project at the request of Barbara Gustafson. The board approved a reimbursement of \$135 to Jim for the boxes. Question for the Treasurer: if we are no longer doing a program at Eastern State Hospital, can the amount in the budget allocated for that program be allocated for Envoy Nursing Home?

Action: budget follow-up by Sarah Dougherty and/or Linda Wever.

Recommendation: Jim write an article on planters with building instructions for the newsletter/website.

President Report: Dave Banks

Board pending list – it was recommended that it be divided into project areas – administration, projects, education, etc. **Action:** Secretary to address.

Dave recommended that we consider contacting JCC officials for support of the Turf Love program. Budgeting is still uncertain for this project through JCC.

Policies and Guides: Dave reported that the VCE guide for Master Gardeners is on-line with a link to the URL from our website.

Issues: On-line forms. Discussion ensued about some of the difficulties with our on-line forms – such as project applications, and hours forms. It is difficult for the receiver to read the responses to the on-line forms because of the formatting.

Action: Dave will research better options for our forms.

He mentioned that the pdf Hours form can be filled on-line. We will test it and ask Art if this format is friendlier for his record keeping purposes.

A short discussion occurred about the iris distribution problems incurred by one of our MGs and note Dave received from one of the interns. (Note: One of our MGs who was aware of the situation, offered to share some irises from her garden with the intern. This info was relayed to the intern).

Next Board meeting: Scheduled for June 26th - tentative date due to June 19th conflict with MG college.

ACTION: Dave will confirm the date with all board members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 AM

Submitted by

Carol Fryer (taking notes for Pat Crowe)