

Master Gardener Foundation Kitsap County

Special Board Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2006

I. Call to order

TR Strong called to order the special meeting of the **MGFKC** at **1:14pm** on **June 14, 2006** in **Silverdale WA**.

TR Strong, Peg Tillery, Wayne Tysver, Allen Miller, Sandy Livermore, Colette Wilson, Sharon Howard, Delona Kent, Ray Etheredge, Sharon Etheredge.

II. New Business

Jane Bedinger's Resignation as President of MGFKC

TR pointed out that the meeting was called due to Jane's resignation as President of the MGFKC.

TR will assume the Presidency for the remaining months of this term as set out in the MGFKC bylaws. In that event TR questioned whether we would need to fill his vacated position as Vice-President. Delona Kent commented that we do not need to fill the position in keeping with and to satisfy the bylaws. She went on to say that if the President were to be absent the Secretary could lead the meeting or a volunteer could be appointed or stand in.

Wayne Tysver felt that we should have a full board standing for the remainder of the year so that the work was not a burden to any one member of the board. Sharon Howard commented that she agreed with Delona that it was not necessary to fill the position. Peg Tillery commented that the additional meeting requirements for State MG rep and the Mid-Pacific cluster meetings could be handled by any individual member of the board and although TR was responsible for these duties as Vice-President they were not a formal part of the Vice-Presidents responsibilities and could be handled by any board member.

TR recapped his communication with Jane. He received and accepted her resignation. A couple of days later she wrote again indicating that she regretted having resigned and that she would be willing to come back and return as vice-president or in any capacity that the Board would have her back in. Jane indicated to TR that she felt that she had spoken to all of the Board members and felt that what she was hearing is that the Board would take her back. TR has spoken to each Board member and is of a

different opinion; that being that the Board in entirety would not be willing to have her back.

TR is concerned that without Jane back there is no one to champion the picnic as she has spearheaded it. He did not feel that we could ask Jane to continue to chair the picnic without inviting her back onto the board.

Sharon commented that if we chose not to fill the VP position with a person from the existing board there was no need to act further on this item.

MOTION: Allen Miller moved that we not fill the Vice-President position and leave the board to operate as it stands. Seconded by Sandy Livermore. Wayne spoke against the motion he feels that the Vice-President position should be filled. Vote in favor 2, vote against 2. TR then voted in favor and provided the tie breaker. He added comments that he feels that we can do the work that we are charged with without the need to add another board member for the remainder of our term (two months)..

Nominating Committee

TR spoke on the issue of having the Board speak to the Nominating committee to address our feelings and understanding on how the Nominating committee would act in relation to the upcoming elections.

Peg Tillery wanted to make the point that through the years it has not been made clear to the members who might be accepting a nomination and could ultimately hold a position on the board that they need to be aware that many extra meetings may be called. It was stated at the Leadership training and was made clear that there should be a "board retreat" meeting once per year to ensure that the board has an opportunity to plan outside of a normal business meeting.

Delona commented that the Nominating Committee as they approach people will make it clear that the involvement would involve more than the monthly Board meeting.

Peg commented that nominees needed to be aware that they needed to be available by means other than email.

Wayne Tysver commented that there was a form to be filled out when we signed up as Master Gardeners outlining our various skills; literacy on the computer, experience in previous positions. He feels that regardless of skill sets we need to ensure that our candidates have "hard shells" and

are able to deal effectively with people and take a stand and hold their opinion. The president especially needs to have a hard shell so they can continue to run the business of the Board despite personal differences.

Delona Kent commented that she didn't know what position she held on the board previously but had access to MG applications that outlined their skill sets etc. Delona asked that the nominating committee have access to those applications. Peg commented that she only applications from 2002 forward as anything previous to that was destroyed by the previous Horticulture Coordinator.

Allen Miller commented that we need to look beyond MG's that started in 2002 (which is when we have records for). That no one with less than 2 years experience as a Master Gardener should be considered for a position on the board so that they not become overwhelmed. He feels that we need to give consideration to members who have been loyal to the program with many years involvement in the MG program.

Sharon Howard commented that we needed to have a Board that reflected a mix of experience and new ideas, history with the Foundation and MG program and new members and MG's.

Sandy Livermore commented that nominees needed to be fully aware of what the requirements of the individual officer positions.

Peg Tillery commented that we need some way of clearly establishing what the role of the Program and what the role of the Foundation are so that Board members clearly understand what the function of each is.

Colette Wilson commented that she supported Sandy's comments with regard to clearly establishing the skill sets are required for Board officers.

TR Strong questioned if the Nominating committee had received job descriptions from each of the officers. Sharon requested that they be sent to her again to ensure she had everything current.

TR commented that 4 of the 6 people on the current years board were new Master Gardeners. TR commented that in retrospect he felt misled by the nominating committee after he had accepted the nomination and became aware of the demands of the job.

Delona Kent questioned if the nominating committee was a standing committee or was put into place at the end of each year solely to find members for the election. The bylaws state it is a standing committee and realistically should be put into place at the beginning of the incoming

Board's term to ensure that they are in place well before the bulk of their work is needed.

TR Strong commented that he hoped that the nominating committee felt satisfied with the numbers (3) that had been called to handle the job at hand. We do not have a chair for the nominating committee and the chair can be appointed by the Board or chosen within themselves. Delona Kent and Sharon Howard have commented that neither of them was able to assume the chair. Colette suggested that they could co-chair so that the duties could be spread between them as neither assume the position in entirety.

Sharon asked which Board members were standing for election in their current capacity or another position.

Wayne - yes

Allen - yes

Sandy - unsure

TR - yes

Colette - no

Marialis – absent so noted as "maybe"

TR Strong questioned who the nominating committee would like to have as a "go to" person rather than the entire board. Delona and Sharon commented that it should be the President.

Sharon Howard commented that the Nominating Committee would be making a preliminary report at the July Board meeting. Sharon questioned how many Director –at-large positions the Board would like to have stand for election. Allen commented since we needed to have an odd number of board members to ensure there couldn't be a tie on votes. Colette commented that we had difficulty filling the slate of officers and need not enlarge the board to complicate the difficulty of finding candidates to stand for election.

Wayne questioned if there was a need to have the director positions filled by residents of the various parts of the county, south, central and north. The consensus was that the geographic tie to positions was removed when the new bylaws were approved.

Sharon Howard commented that her understanding was the Nominating committee would go off and have their meetings, find their slate of candidates and bring it to the board for vote and approval. Sharon feels that we may not be able to find enough candidates to have contested offices but in her opinion she felt that even if we had a candidate with

good skills there still a need to find other candidates so there was an actual vote taking place to chose the board.

The election results will be tabulated in conjunction with the MGFKC Annual meeting to be held the third Wednesday of September. Ballots are returned to the extension office and nominating committee count the ballots during the meeting and report.

July Picnic Meeting

TR commented that when Jane resigned we lost our chair for that event. TR feels that we are still in need of someone to chair the event and ensure that all details are handled. Wayne Tysver has visited the site and feels that the site is a good one for the event. Allen Miller confirmed that the reservation was still in place.

Sharon Howard commented that she felt this was an event that could be cancelled. Allen Miller gave some background on how the facilities had been booked. He had been involved in a small group discussion and booked the picnic area when it seemed clear that there would be a larger group he booked the pavilion.

Ray Etheredge commented that he felt that this event had been chosen to try to expand the membership involvements and that we should proceed with it and not cancel simply because the Presidency had been vacated.

Wayne Tysver feels that the picnic should proceed. He is willing to chair it. Wayne was under the impression that we would be providing the food. Other members of the board had a different recollection and that it would be completely pot luck with the board simply providing beverages and plates and cutlery. TR Strong questioned whether we would have a regular board meeting at the Eagles Nest on the 5th or continue with the picnic on July 5th (6 to 8pm). Wayne commented that the facilities are quite nice. TR agreed that if we proceed with the picnic it was a good facility. Wayne has some ideas about how he would run the event.

Motion: Sandy Livermore motioned that we continue to plan the July 5th meeting as a picnic in the evening. Seconded by Wayne Tysver. Sandy questioned what details were required to continue to hold it as a picnic. Allen feels that this type of event needs preplanning to ensure that the details are available to all members. He feels the time is running short for doing this. TR Strong feels we need to have someone champion getting the word out.

Peg Tillery feels that all members of MG community are being invited and not simply the Foundation membership. Allen feels that we might be better off having the event rescheduled to a later date.

The question "called for" by Colette and vote in favor of ending discussion was held.

Vote in favor of question was held: in favor 2, against 2, tie breaking vote by TR against. Motion failed. The July 5th Picnic meeting will not take place.

Alternatives discussed included changing the date or potentially changing the location. Peg Tillery commented that the Anna Smith Open House is on 8/6/06. We could have the picnic/meeting on that day but perhaps have it at Brownsville rather than Anna Smith because of facilities. TR questioned whether the event actually had to be held in conjunction with a Board meeting. Colette Wilson suggested that it might be better to have the picnic as a stand alone event and not try to conduct a business meeting.

If the event is held at Anna Smith we need to have chairs and tables brought in, perhaps from the

Motion: To have picnic at Anna Smith on Aug 5th after the open house without a business meeting. Potluck picnic, all MG's invited. By Sandy Livermore, Seconded by Colette Wilson

Wayne questioned if this would be the first ever evening board supported event in the evening held

All in favor 4. Motion carried.

The picnic will be held at 4:00 pm. Chairs and tables will be brought to the site for use. TR suggested that responsibilities as the chairs for this event be split between Wayne Tysver and Ray Etheridge. Pot luck with a pie exchange.

Information Available on MGFKC Website:

Not on the agenda but raised by Allen Miller is the concern regarding the foundation membership roster being available for public viewing. He doesn't want the information available on any unsecured website because of legal liability and the threat that the wrong people could misuse the information. TR Strong feels that our contact information should be available to the membership.

Allen would like his email information removed from the website and any newsletters archived on the website. Colette Wilson will arrange to have this happen and will speak with Jane Bedinger who is the Webmaster. Peg asked that we also have the information regarding the Raab Park P-patch removed since it is neither Foundation or program related and has no place on the Foundation website. Colette Wilson will speak to Jane about this as well.

Motion to adjourn Sandy Livermore, seconded Allen Miller. All in favor.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

a)

III. Adjournment

TR Strong adjourned the meeting at **3:01pm. Motion to Adjourn – Sandy Livermore, second Colette Wilson. All in Favor..**

Minutes submitted by: Colette Wilson, Secretary MGFKC