

MGFKC Board meeting  
April 6, 2005

Board members present: Gary Gratrix, Beanie O'Neill, Niene Hartley, MJ Tyler & Robbie Gallagher

The meeting was called to order at 1 PM. One addition to the agenda was to bid farewell to MG Angie Ogden who will return to her native UK shortly. She will be greatly missed.

President Gary Gratrix welcomed Robbie Gallagher to her first official meeting as a Board Member. He welcomed other MGs to the meeting.

A Thank You had been planned to honor the service of Jackie Aitchison, however, she was unable to attend today. The flowers for her will be presented by Peg Tillery with thanks from the board.

The Minutes of the March 2, 2005 meeting were corrected. Names of Jodie Holdcroft and Joyia Rubens were corrected. Reference in the last paragraph to action by the Membership Committee regarding Foundation membership cards was corrected to say that Jackie Aitchison had agreed to produce these cards and laminate them for members. Niene Hartley moved approval of the minutes, Robbie Gallagher seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Our current balance in all funds is \$12, 778.27, with \$6, 482.23 in checking. See attached full reports giving budget status and expenditures. Beanie O'Neill reported that she has been in communication with Bob Ramsey at the state Department of Revenue who told us that under our present tax status we NEVER have to collect state sales tax no matter what form the sales take, or where they are made.

Horticultural Coordinator Report: Peg Tillery reported that there are currently 250 active MGs. Last month Peg attended the extension staff meeting held in Pullman every other year. She learned that, while it is important to report our efforts in terms of hours spent, the greatest impression on WSU officials, as well as on state legislators is the "anecdotal" narratives which accompany these reports. MGs are urged to make a point of reporting instances when our program has had a special impact on the public..

She announced the formation of the first Junior Master Gardener Program for Wash. State. She has been designated WSU State Coordinator for this program which is aimed at 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade level students, with very good teaching materials. On May 13, 2005 an all day training presentation will be held in "The Egg" at the Norm Dicks center.

Our current MG training course is finished. Peg thanked mentors who assisted her, who were essential to the success of this series.

The Native Plant Specialist course also finished last week. In future we will avoid scheduling this at the same time as the MG training, and perhaps plan to offer only every other year. She plans to develop a national curriculum and forward this to WSU. She will consult Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott with the aim of developing certification for MGs as Native Plant Specialists.

Recruitment of a replacement in a staff position for the ext. office is nearing completion.

The County Weed Board has completed recruitment for the Weed Coordinator and has hired Dana Coggan., who will start work on April 19, 2005.

The formal interview sessions for Arno Bergstrom will be held all day on April 22, 2005. Input is sought from those served by this position so MGs are urged to attend.

Communications to all MGs is facilitated by the fact that only 20 of our current membership do not have email. Peg plans to assign buddies who do have email to each of these individuals for short communications and to mail the information when there is a lengthy piece to pass along.

Peg reported the start of a new gardening magazine (name not yet developed) for our area. She will collaborate with Dee Coppola to develop material to be published. Each issue will feature MGs and support the Foundation. Wet Apple Communications will be the publisher.

Speaker Series Report: DeLona Kent presented a status report for this series. (see attached). Our current "loss" is actually nearer \$300 than that reported because funds have been received since. As a valuable outreach to the public, this loss was not considered serious by the board. It may be appropriate to skip this for a year, which might be a decision best left to the next board. It was agreed to table the discussion until next month. DeLona was heartily thanked for her efforts!

Monthly Seminars Report: Niene Hartley announced the April and May seminar topics and suggested that an evening seminar might be scheduled for June.

Calendar Committee Report: Sharon Howard reported that arrangements for producing the calendar are moving forward well. They have planned a gala "launch" for the project on Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> in the "Egg" at the Norm Dick Gvt. Center which will coincide with the First Friday Art Walk in Bremerton. Invitations will go out to the press, dignitaries, and all MGs & Foundation members. They have contacted two distributors for the calendar and developed impressive market research data. They have come to the conclusion that the initial printing order should be raised from 3000 to 5000, with the potential of increasing revenue by \$20,000. Beanie provided print-outs which show Foundation cash flow expected over the period of production and sale of the calendar. Sharon noted that similar projects have relied upon "angels" for informal, no-interest loans for the initial costs. She believes that such angels would step forward from our group. This board had approved \$6,000 for the proposed printing of 3,000 calendars (approved \$10,300 for the project). The cost of printing would need to be raised to \$11,000 in order to fund 5000 calendars, (\$16,000 for the project). The increase in printing cost of \$5,700 could be covered by redeeming 2 CDs (\$1,640 on 4/7/05 and \$1,643 on 7/7/05) for a total of approx. \$3,300, and by soliciting "angels" to cover the remaining \$2,400.

Niene moved and Robbie seconded that we agree to an initial printing of 5000 calendars and that we cash our April and July CDs and approve solicitation of "angels" for the balance needed.

The motion was passed without opposition.

## NEW BUSINESS

In order to facilitate sales of the calendar over the internet Beanie proposed that we set up an account with PayPal. Her research on this topic indicated that this is the most economical method to use and others present reinforced her impression that PayPal is a reputable processor. This would add 81 cents to the cost of each sale, which we could recoup by adding a shipping and handling charge. Niene moved and MJ seconded that we use PayPal and authorize giving them our bank account information. The motion passed unanimously.

Grants Committee Report: Gary Gratrix reported a very worthwhile meeting with 7 MGs interested in pursuing grant funding for the foundation. Frank Deebach and Beth Soukup have agreed to be co-chairs. One of the first tasks of this group will be to draft a mission statement, which is a prerequisite for applying for grants. The next meeting will be April 11th at 9 am at the ext. office. Since this committee will have an impact on ways and means, he asked if Beanie would be able to attend. The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm

Respectfully submitted, M.J. Tyler, Secretary