

Master Gardener Foundation Kitsap County

Board Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2006

I. Call to order

TR Strong called to order the regular meeting of the **MGFKC** at **1:07 pm** on **September 6, 2006** in **Eagles Nest, Kitsap Fairgrounds, Bremerton WA.**

In attendance were: TR Strong, Colette Wilson, Sandy Livermore, Allen Miller, Wayne Tysver, Marialis Jurges Peg Tillery, Georgene Smith, Jane Bedinger, Dorothy Crouch, Allen McKibben, John Mikesell, Gary Gratrix, Don McDonald, Sharon Etheredge, Ray Etheredge, David Reckner, Mike Shannon, Mary-Cathern Edwards, Margaret Bonifaci

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Colette Wilson queried for any corrections or amendments to the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Motion to Approve by **Sandy Livermore**

Motion Seconded by **Marialis Jurges**

Vote: Approved Unanimously

III. Reports and Announcements

Treasurer's Report – See Attached

We have two CD's coming due this month which will be combined, rather than renewed independently. Sandy asked for questions or comments/concerns. None were raised.

Horticulture Report – Peg Tillery

See Attached

Peg reported that we are on track for budget.

We may not need to purchase an Insectary because of a generous donation by Dr. Art Antonelli. We simply need containers to house the insect samples.

Peg anticipates ordering the microscope in October.

The Gardens are on track. Anna Smith appears to be on track to spend all of the monies budgeted for the covered shelter. Raab Park has an Eagle Scout working on raised beds and trellises etc. Their budget allotment may be spent by November.

Foundation Picnic – Wayne Tysver

Wayne has heard from a bunch of members as to why they weren't at the picnic after the event. He recapped that the date and venue changed from July 5 in Brownsville to August 5 at Anna Smith Garden. Wayne feels that we get didn't get a better turnout because we did not provide hospitality/refreshments.

Wayne is suggesting that in the next budget that a larger amount be budgeted to cover hospitality/refreshments. He suggested an amount of \$1000.

Sandy Livermore indicated that she didn't think that the lack of refreshments was the reason that people didn't come. She feels that \$1000 might be too extravagant.

Peg indicated that Donna Alber asked that Peg pass on information about how and when the date is chosen. The first weekend of August is the Dahlia Society event for the year and is also the same weekend that the Fairgrounds are spruced up for the upcoming Fair (later that month). Many of our members are committed to participating in these other events and could not come to both.

Jane Bedinger said that she would speak to the issue during the communications portion of the meeting but indicated that she would suggest another survey of members regarding their needs and wants for this type of event.

Gary Gratrix indicated that he felt that the Dahlia Society event wouldn't have prevented many people from coming to the open house or picnic.

Georgene Smith indicated that she feels that the first part of August is a very, very busy time of the year for herself and many other people. She also feels that parking at Anna Smith may be an issue which keeps people away.

Marialis Jurgas suggested that weekends are very full and she feels that a week night might have been better timing.

Colette Wilson stated that she thought the event was a success, 30 people came and enjoyed themselves, the weather was good

Allen Miller said he felt that it should have been a pot luck; that exchange of food opens up opportunities for conversation. Combining the event with the open house made for a long day. Parking is an issue, expecting guests, especially older members to walk from a parking lot is wrong. He feels we should make parking available down near the garden and suggests that we should speak with Facilities, Parks and Recreation about making more parking available.

Ray Etheredge said that he was confused about the change from pot luck to each person bringing their own items. He felt we couldn't provide food because we didn't have an idea of how many people would attend and would need food provided for.

Dorothy Crouch indicated that she had chaired refreshments for various items and feels that we should provide hot dogs and hamburgs with people bringing desserts to share.

Jane Bedinger commented that she agrees that the event was successful and provides a good starting point for our next event.

Greenhouse Search

TR Strong indicated that our group had been out and potted up many, many plants for the city but nothing has been heard about the greenhouse venture since then.

Peg Tillery indicated that she had not heard anything further from the City of Bremerton regarding the status of the greenhouse agreement. Peg has confirmed during the meeting that the Greenhouse Committee wants her to follow up on the status of any agreement.

Jane Bedinger commented that she had seen in TR's report that there were no washroom facilities and that would have to be addressed in further discussions with the City of Bremerton in the drafting of the MOA and in conjunction with meetings with Tom Cressman.

Ray Etheredge indicated that they would be meeting to see additional equipment to determine what if anything is usable and might need replacement. He indicated that it is an item that will be considered during the discussions

Anna Smith Learning Shelter Status – Gary Gratrix

See attached

TR Strong noted that he and Ray Etheredge set into place a high number of concrete blocks to complete the foundation today.

Long Range Planning Committee

The next LRP meeting is next Wednesday, September 13 with a report to follow in future.

Jane Bedinger asked if we could be given some additional information regarding the status of the LRP committee work. Peg commented that since the LRP committee was a Program function we should not expect detailed reports. She noted that TR Strong was appointed to represent the MGFKC Board on Jane's behalf as President and that Sandy Livermore as Treasurer should be on the committee and Delona Kent would be representative of the Foundation with other appointees to be made on behalf of the program by Peg. They are exploring program items on a long range basis and that this is a Program function and reports will be given as a part of the budget process.

Nominating Committee

TR provided the report from Sharon – ballots are in the mail, thank you to Colette Wilson's daughters for stuffing envelopes and getting the ballots into the mail.

Audit Committee – Georgene Smith

Georgene has not heard from the other members of the committee about being available to meet on September 15th to conduct the Audit. Georgene indicated that Sharon Howard is available. She will provide a full report at the annual meeting on September 20th.

Field Trip Report – Marialis Jurges

She has had contact from the presenter regarding the Grass identification class and it will take place in April next year approximately. She has spoken with Joyia Rubens and they have discussed the possibility of having two field trips per month during the months of June and July but that there would not be a further field trip until April 2007. Dorothy Crouch suggested that we might want to go to Molback's in Woodinville during December as they have previously made that trip. Don Mc Donald also suggested visiting the Whitney Gardens at that time of the year.

TR commented that 10% of the members of any group do 90% of the work and that we need to start working at getting more of our membership participating in the working of the organization

Communication Committee – Jane Bedinger

Jane proposed that we do another survey of the members since the last survey was done in January 2004. Jane suggested that the survey be conducted during the incoming Board's 2007 planning and budget meetings and considerations. She suggested that we put the survey online with paper copies available for those that are not online.

The last survey was 25 questions with opportunity for free text comments as well. She recalled that approximately 57 surveys were returned. She feels the results could and should be reported online. It takes approximately 2 months to complete the process so she requested approval by the Board to proceed with undertaking the process.

John Mikesell said that surveys are only as good as the questions. He feels if we are going to do this we need to finely tune the types of questions we ask. Jane indicated that she is happy to hear everyone's suggestions as to what questions need to be answered.

During the last survey many of the questions dealt with opening up membership to non MG's etc.

Allen Miller commented that he feels that the Communications Committee is a worthwhile committee and that he feels that the group needs to be very careful about the accuracy of the information that they send out. He pointed out in particular the wrong date being sent out in announcing today's meeting. Mistakes like this are unacceptable.

Jane indicated that she had sent out a correction immediately. She feels as a volunteer organization we cannot expect individuals to not make mistakes. John Mikesell indicated that he felt the survey should perhaps be conducted as a Program activity since the Foundation funds the program and he is unsure what activities we undertake.

Jane clarified what types of things we would, and had, asked in the previous survey and that it is not going to delve into any aspects of the Program and stick to purely Foundation related items.

Gary Gratrix suggested that he could send a copy of the original survey and results to Board members for review in determining if we need to proceed with a survey at all.

Jane commented that she needs time to schedule the various aspects of work required to write and conduct the survey with her work schedule in combination with any items.

A motion was made to begin the survey creation process in anticipation of upcoming Budget and Planning process for by the 2006/2007 Board.

Motion – Colette Wilson

Second – Marialis Jorges

Vote – Approved

Allen McKibben suggested that we (the Board) could review questions and discuss again at the Annual Meeting.

IV. Unfinished Business

Master Gardener Conference – Colette Wilson will not be going to the conference. We also learned that Joyia Rubens will not be going on Thursday so we have two vacancies available for people to assume.

John Mikesell indicated that Carol Hartrick might be interested in going. John didn't feel she could be flexible enough assume the vacated spot on such short notice. (less than 24 hours). It was left that if someone could think of or knew someone that was interested in attending the conference they were to call Colette for enrolment details.

V. New Business

- a) **Annual Meeting** – TR queried which committees should be giving reports at the annual meeting. Sometime after that there is an orientation for the new Board. We have not yet chosen someone to conduct that orientation for the new Board. TR commented that it should be someone who has been involved with the Foundation for some time and is aware of the history and help direct things. After a suggestion by Gary Gratrix he will contact Sharon Howard to be moderator of this event.

Dave Reckner brought up the Fred Meyer potting event. He has been involved in the East Bremerton event for years and has asked previously for donations from Fred Meyer and was turned down. He suggested that we should be actively requesting donations from these companies for our plant sale. Don McDonald says that we do have some “connections” with individual stores but decisions regarding donations are made on a case by case basis.

Colette Wilson suggested that with regard to gathering donations, Dave Reckner might want to volunteer on the Plant Sale committee and take on this particular task.

Jane suggested that this might be a good idea to be dealt with in conjunction with developing business memberships.

John Mikesell suggested that it could also fit under the Ways and Means committee as a further method of fundraising.

Wayne Tysver suggested that there are people including a clinic person from Wal-Mart who would be well suited to contacting businesses.

Communications Vehicle

TR addressed the “Communications Vehicle”, a document that was drafted in 2002/2003 in anticipation of the MOA between WSU by the Foundation. Peg Tillery sent it out to the Board for review about a month ago.

Don McDonald indicated that he was the State Rep at the time the MOA was drafted. The communications vehicle was intended as a “guideline” to assist with communications between the program and Foundation. The By-Laws etc which have since been voted on and adopted replaced this item.

Colette Wilson indicated that the document in question is not part of the MOA with WSU nor is it an addendum.

Gary Gratrix indicated that if it is not part of the MOA and was intended as a guideline that in his opinion it did not have to be adhered to stringently.

A formal vote was not taken but the majority of members present indicated agreement with Gary's comments.

VI. Adjournment

TR Strong adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM

Minutes submitted by Colette Wilson