

Minutes of Extended Board Meeting July 7, 2016

In attendance: Carole Teja, Jessica Miller, Wes Nettleton, Virginia Schofield, Becky Wolary, Shirley Bohm, Kathy Parent, Becky Panetta, Aaron Tulin, Karen McGinty, Robert Ayer, Susan Varlamoff

Meeting called to order by President Carole Teja at 10:30 a.m.

First agenda item - Vice President's report by Jessica Miller. Monthly meeting speakers have been well received and we look forward to finishing the year with Felder Rushing in October. January and February noontime programs are already planned.

Nominating Committee has secured a full slate of nominees for the Executive Committee which will be presented in October. President - Jessica Miller; Vice President - Virginia Schofield; Treasurer - Wes Nettleton; Secretary - Shirley Bohm. Carole Teja will fill the fifth place on the board as Past President. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the October meeting. Voting will take place at the November meeting.

Treasurer, Wes Nettleton, presented the financial report. Our current membership stands at 195, just short of our goal of 200. Plant sale was definitely a success with only a few stray receipts left to be accounted. Bethesda Senior Center has informed us there will be no charge for meeting space this year. Finances are sound with around \$14,000 in checking and \$10,000 in savings. Out of a designated \$7,500 only \$4,500 was awarded in grants.

Recording Secretary, Virginia Schofield, reported contacting several local churches as possible locations of future plant sales (and even State Conference should Gwinnett Tech not work out.) Conversations are exploratory at this point.

Past President, Becky Wolary, reported that changes to the Constitution had passed and been posted on the website. She also reported no problems with the website, but urged members to send in pictures of field trips, workshops and projects to be included on the web page.

Kathy Parent gave the Extension Office report. Volunteer hours coming in well. A lot of programs are being presented. She encouraged everyone to watch a video presented by Robert Brannen on the county website on mosquito control. Robert Brannen's retirement as County Extension Coordinator is currently on hold.

Committee Chair Reports

Workshop Chair, Susan Varlamoff - pollinator workshop is planned for Oct. 10th with Susan Meyers at Stone Mountain.

Field Trip Chair will be taken by Becky Panetta starting in 2017 but she may arrange one or two for the end of 2016.

Weed and Feed Chair, Jackie Kujawa was absent but sent report of recent projects.

Hospitality Chair, Shirley Bohm - Volunteer Picnic will be coming up on Sept. 19 and will include a free tour of the house and grounds of McDaniel Farm Park. There will be a plant swap again this year.

Plant Sale Chair, Shirley Bohm - sale was very successful. She has compiled suggestions for future Chairs based on a post event survey and assessment of the Committee. She suggested future sales have CoChairs - one for the plants and one for garden art.

Rosalie Tubre, Grants Chair was not present but sent a report. Carole Teja reported that the Executive Committee has reviewed changes proposed by the Grant Committee and some small positive changes have been made. An increase in grant applications is hoped for next year. A new board position has been created called Special Interests (School and Community Gardens). Maggie Houze will fill this role next year and can help school and community gardens to apply for grants.

Photo Contest Chair, Becky Panetta reported only ten submissions for the contest. A change this year will include a vote by members in attendance to choose 'Best in Show' from the submissions in addition to the regular awards.

Historian, Lori Prosser was unable to attend but requested more photos from members from Master Gardener events.

Trainee Breakfast Chair, Karen McGinty is stepping down after two years and will be succeeded by Robert Ayre who Carole introduced to the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Kathy Parent reported attending the Sprouts program training, which is the new Master Gardener program available for working with children age 5-8. She requested the Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association sponsor the start up funds for this project if the Extension office arranged training for some Master Gardeners now working in elementary schools. President Teja advised providing a written proposal for funding which Kathy agreed to do.

Following a discussion of membership payment of dues led by Wes Nettleton, a motion was made by Becky Wolary, seconded by Jessica Miller, that membership dues for 2017 begin being collected in November 2016. Motion carried.

Apron orders have been extended until the next meeting. The Executive Committee has decided to award aprons to 2017 Interns who join the association and complete their 50 hours of volunteer service. As many as possible will be given at the volunteer picnic in September 2017.

GMGA 2017 Conference - the state Master Gardener organization will hold their annual conference in Gwinnett next year. Gwinnett Master Gardener, Margaret Bergeron will be the president of the state association next year. While the state organization is responsible for securing the venue, our county will supply the volunteers and we will share 50/50 in profits from the Conference. As stated currently, the rules do not allow volunteers to attend the conference with out paying the registration fee. GCMGA members are encouraged to attend the 2016 conference in Carrollton for ideas.

Following up on earlier discussion, Becky Wolary made a motion that guests be charged \$10.00 for the meal at the Volunteer Picnic in September and the holiday meal in November. Motion seconded by Susan Varlamoff and carried unanimously.

No one has come forward to organize a Gardener to Gardener plant sale at the Koi Club show in October, but individual Master Gardeners or groups are free to bring plants to sell.

President Teja adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Schofield, Secretary