Gwinnett County Master Gardener’s Association

Board of Directors Meeting

*February 10, 2020*

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Present: Virginia Schofield, Ann Langley, Jack Bolton, Wes Nettleton, Linda Bolton, Gervasio Cubenas, Tixie Fowler, Susan Kosenka, Jackie Kujawa, Lori Prosser, Becky Wolary, and Susan Varlamoff

Absent: Lynda Pollock, Robert Ayer, Aaron Tulin, Alice Verner, and Martha Whitman

Guests: Deborah DeSalvo and Barbara Phillips

Minutes – Ann Langley read the Minutes for the November 11, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting and they were approved. (MSC)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer – Jack Bolton

Jack Bolton presented the Budget for 2020. The budget is similar to the 2019 budget except a new line item was added for the Garden Tour and budgets were cut for other committees in an effort to bring the budget into balance. As it is, we will need to borrow $6,205 from reserves to meet all proposed expenses for 2020.

There was discussion on increasing the maximum threshold for grants from $500 to $550 or $600. There was also discussion on raising the GCMGA dues for 2021 to $20.

The budget was approved as presented. (MSC)

Jack Bolton gave the Treasurer’s Report. He submitted an IRS 1099 form for Dr. Michael Dirr reporting his speaker’s fee.

Vice President – Lynda Pollock (Virginia Schofield read Lynda’s report in Lynda’s absence)

GCMGA Polo Shirts – We are ready to collect orders and money. We have 6 sample sizes for people to view and, by next meeting, we will have three embroidered shirts (thanks to Virginia, Wes, and Lynda).  I recommend we take orders through March meeting. Cost of $38 covers embroidery charge and tax. We should upload a picture to the embroidered shirt and order form on the website. People can print off form and mail to Jack or me (which ever Jack prefers). Once we have finished the initial order, members can order other items with the logo. We will add the code to the members only section of the website.

I talked to Lisa Klein and we designed a generic business card for MGEVs to use with blanks for the member's name and information. We will store them in the MG desk at Extension office. The Gwinnett Extension office will pay for printing. Lisa is talking to Mary about approval and cost.

Past President – Wes Nettleton

Wes sent out the 10-question survey in January to 175 GCMGA members; 41 responded. The survey needs to be republicized at both the meetings and via email. The email should contain a link to the survey and members should check their spam folders for it. Wes also provided a summary of five questions.

* 85% would like to continue meeting at Bethesda Park Senior Center; the remaining 15% recommended various locations.
* 56% plan to volunteer for the GCMGA Plant Sale; 23% plan to volunteer for the GCMGA Garden Tour, 26% plan to volunteer for both, 16% do not plan to volunteer at either.
* 19% attended 1-3 meetings in 2019, 30% attended 4-7 meetings, 44% attended 8-11 meetings and 7% attended none.
* 69% plan to attend 1-3 field trips in 2020, 10% plan to attend all, 10% plan to attend none. 46% prefer that field days are scheduled on weekdays, 7% prefer weekends and 7% would like to try an overnight field trip.
* 7% indicated they would be interested in a leadership position, 93% indicated they were not interested.

There was some discussion on how to encourage this year’s class of MGEV’s and those in 2017 and 2018 to step into positions of leadership. Suggestions were oriented to this year’s MGEV’s that GCMGA members volunteer to call them, to show up at the group photo lunch during training, to attend the MGEV orientation post training, and design a brochure on committees.

President – Virginia Schofield

Virginia is in the process of applying for a not-for-profit corporation status with the State of Georgia. We are exempted from this process, but it is still a good idea to comply with Federal and State regulations.

Currently, three GCMGA committees are not chaired - workshop, newsletter, and historian. Virginia would appreciate any suggestions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants Committee – Martha Whitman, presented by Becky Wolary

The Grants Committee met Tuesday, February 4, to review the Grant Applications for 2020. There were eight new grant applications plus one extension of a 2019 Grant (Piedmont Land Trust). An extension of the Piedmont Land Trust Grant into 2020 was approved last fall.

Our motion is to approve all of the applications. Attached is a summary of the eight (plus one) GCMGA Master Gardener Projects applying for 2020 grants. There are descriptions of each project and notes for any changes to the grant amount requested. Total dollars needed to fund these grants in 2020 is $4,468.50. (MSC)

Hospitality – Alice Verner, presented by Virginia Schofield

There was a hiccup with maintenance at Bethesda Park in January. We need to vacuum after every meeting.

Trainee Breakfast/Lunch – Robert Ayer

GCMGA is responsible for the MGEV trainee lunch and breakfast March 4, 11, 18. Donations of cash and food are appreciated.

Field Trip – Gervasio Cuevas

Several field trips are in the works although the dates are firm for only the field trip to Gibbs Garden on March 7. Future field trips are

* A behind the scenes tour of the Atlanta Botanical Garden in Gainesville
* Mushroom farm
* Sunflower farm
* Speaker-related field trips

Plant Sale – Susan Kosenka/Lynda Pollock

Susan and Lynda will meet with volunteer leaders the first of March. They are working on plant dig lists. They will confirm the plant sale location at Lilburn Library. They have received the license for selling live plants.

Photo Contest – Lori Prosser/Ann Langley

The photo contest normally held in July each year will be held in May due to the Photo Exhibit planned for this summer at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. This year’s contest will include pictures taken from January 1, 2019 to March 30, 2020. The categories have changed somewhat. A copy of the 2020 Photo Contest rules is attached.

Regarding the Photo Exhibit, Lori has sent out an email to past winners inviting them to participate in the exhibit with matting and framing requirements. Photographers can choose to print and frame all their pictures or just a few.

Garden Tour – Linda Bolton/Susan Varlamoff

Save the date cards have been printed and are being distributed via members at church groups, garden clubs, book clubs and other contact events. The printing cost was charged against the budgeted funds for 2019.

We are currently exploring the process for online ticket sales with Aaron. When the process is finalized, information will be uploaded to the GCMGA website.

We are actively seeking sponsors for the Garden Tour and will credit them in the ticket brochure. Marketing plans are proceeding for local neighborhood papers and websites.

We are finalizing garden descriptions for the ticket/brochure and plan to have printing completed by mid-March. Ivan Varlamoff, GCMGA Friend, volunteered to do the ticket/brochure.

Ticket sales will begin on **April 1st.** Online ticket sales will end on May 20th. We will also sell tickets at gardens #1 and #7 the day of the tour. The goal is to sell 150 tickets.

We will have a sales table at the GCMGA Plant Sale.

Jessica Miller has agreed to manage the docents. Scheduling, enlisting and developing instructions on duties.

We have a few garden angels working with some of our participating gardens and we will offer this opportunity to earn hours to the new class of MG’s. Additionally, we will be providing permanent plant identification markers for unusual or exotic plants for our hosts.

We will continue to have docent/garden angel volunteer sign-up sheets at the monthly meetings until we reach our desired quota.

Weed & Feed/Seed Library – Jackie Kujawa

Family Tree normally donates last year’s seed packets to the GCMGA. This year they returned their seeds to the seed companies.

At this point no Weed & Feeds are scheduled. Let Jackie know if anyone needs assistance.

Website – Becky Wolary/Aaron Tulin

The website is up to date. Would like new pictures. Need a blurb on the Garden Tour. There is $150 in Paypal account from last March. BOD minutes need to be posted since 2015. Website also needs the 2020 budget, updated expense/check request form and to update our tax- deductible status.

Publicity – Tixie Fowler

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was some discussion on getting more people involved in GCMGA leadership.

This is the 30th Anniversary of GCMGA. Ideas to commemorate it are

* To create a photo exhibit with pictures from the last 30 years.
* To purchase signs to be used at farm picnic, plant sale, garden tour
* To do a 30-year review at November meeting. List the past presidents, particularly Don Friedus who established the GCMGA.

There is a lot of historical data particularly in past issues of *A Bit of Dirt.*

OLD BUSINESS

Facebook – We will continue to use Facebook so anyone can see the page. We appreciate Hannah, Martha Whitman’s daughter who shared her IT experience with the Executive Committee. The IP address issue has been resolved. We should change the name to Gwinnett Master Gardeners. We need to establish a Social Media chair.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Langley, Secretary