

SEWMG Business Meeting Minutes

Date May 8, 2013

Members Present: 25

Meeting was called to order by President, Kris Jensen at 9:30am.

Prior Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2013 was presented by Secretary, Linda Ziebell and approved as read with one change to the date of the next Garden Support Meeting that should read 5/22 instead of 5/29.

Treasurer's Report for April 2013 was given by Treasurer, Lindy Pawlak and approved as read.

Old Business

Committees

- Plant Sale – Patty and Diane reported:
 - The plant count is down this year compared to other years, hopeful to get 10,000 plants.
 - Meeting attendees discussed limiting pre-sale plants to MVG's or increasing prices due to lower volume of plants available for sale. Plant sale committee will take discussion into consideration.

- Garden Support – Patty Witt & Mary Thiele reported:
 - The next meeting is Wed, 5/22 at the Milw Extension Office.
 - The committee is over budget at this time.
 - Mary Johnson is working on the garden tour for 9/14. She is not having success in getting garden chairs to volunteer their gardens. It may be cancelled.
 - Committee will be visiting 11 gardens this year to assist with approved garden signage, stakes and answer questions garden chairs may have. Committee needs help with this effort, contact Patty Witt or Mary Thiele if you can help.

- In-House Education – no updates

- Bus Trip
 - Jerry Nelson's tour will be on 5/29.
 - The July bus trip will be on 7/19 to Sheboygan's Bookworm Gardens & Christopher Farms.

- State Fair - Faouzi Kablaoui reported:
 - State Fair begins 8/1. There are 170 shifts, with 4 certified and 1 in-training MGV per shift.
 - Racine and Kenosha county MGV's will help.
 - He will be obtaining ½ price admission tickets for volunteers.

- Life Long Gardening – Kay Costello reported:
 - No LifeLong Gardening programs scheduled for May.
 - There will be LifeLong gardening displays at Allen Centennial Garden in Madison on 5/11 and our plant sale at State Fair on 5/18. There are 2 community garden displays planed for July.
 - Received 2 donations; a veg/trug from LGarden that will be on display at Stein's/Hawks until it is moved to our gardens at the time of State Fair and 4 pruners from Fiskars.
 - They committee is discussing developing an enabling garden at Eble Park in Brookfield with the Waukesha County Parks Dept.

New Business

- John Hahn reported:
 - WIMGA had a planning meeting and SEWMG is providing guidelines for other state groups.
 - Upcoming dates:
 - 2013 - State Conference in Janesville 8/16-17, International Conference is an Alaskan Cruise 9/7-14
 - 2014 - State Conference will be in March in Appleton, Upper Midwest Conference will be in Quad Cities 6/25-28

- 2015 - State Conference in Lacrosse
 - There will be background checks on volunteers every 4 years.
 - The Dean's Office for Extension says that we may need to increase ways to involve more diverse groups due to the Federal Audit for diversity.
- Nancy Lehrer, Volunteer Coordinator reported:
 - Supplies available for garden chairs on vegetable gardening.
 - 5/8 - Custom Grown having a rain garden presentation today at 6:30 and Diane Thieme will be at Greendale High School discussing perennials.
 - Sharon will be sending emails regarding Urban Agriculture and Junior Master Garden programs.
- Diane Thieme reported that the annual internal financial audit for 2012 found no issues. Recommendations for 2013 are to develop procedures for voiding lost and expired checks and clarify forms and documentation. Faouzie suggested an external audit to be done every 5 years. Discussion was that it is expensive and not necessary and the issue should be taken to the board if Faouzie wants to pursue.
- Linda Ziebell said the organization received thank you letters for contributions to the University of Wisconsin Foundation – Master Gardener Program for \$1,500 and Boerner Botanical Gardens for \$2,500 designated to Children's Plant Science and Environmental Education Programs and \$2,500 to the Garden Fund.

Announcements:

- **Next meeting is on June 12 at 9:30am at the MCCE.**
- Annual Picnic will be 8/22 at Mitchell Park in Brookfield. Time: 3PM begin setup, 5:30 hot entrée served. Bring a dish to pass. Check out gardens in the area if time permits - Strohmaier Sculpture and Botanical Garden, Dousman Stage Coach and Eble Garden.
- Janet Wintersberger announced that Master Gardener, Jeff Trader will be presenting "Gardening from a SE Wisconsin point to view" at the Elm Grove Library on 5/22 at 7PM.
- Diane Thieme announced that the Eastside Milwaukee Community Council's garden tour of up to 18 east side gardens, including the North Point Lighthouse Master Gardener sponsored garden, is on Sunday, 7/28, from 10-4. It includes a bike tour and the walk is about 6 miles, but can do sections. There will be 3 MGV's shifts with plant advisors. Attendees include Geri Olson, Barb Netzow and Marlene Jaglinski. There will be a number of vendors too.

Adjourned at 10:32am

Respectfully submitted, Linda Ziebell, SEWMG secretary