

Draft MGFSJC Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

Master Gardener Board of Directors Meeting, October 9, 2018, Skagit Valley
Community College Community Room

Present: Julia Turney, , Sandy May, Nancy Forker, Diana Brooks, Glenda Pugerude,
Lenore Bayuk, Jody Burns, Susan Kunk, Diane Macondray.

Visitors: Jenny Harris, Caitie Blethen, Alice Deane, Mo Sloan

Review and approval of July meeting minutes: Approved as submitted.

Financial Report and Budget, 2019: Nancy Forker reviewed the budget reports compiled October, 2018. The current balance sheets will be posted on-line. The current bank statement shows \$46,921.49 in the bank. The General Fund has \$18,880.03; Lopez Island Fund has \$1,328.88; the Orcas Island Fund has \$1,786.80; the San Juan Island Fund has \$21,235.71.

The 2019 budget process will begin in late November/December when Nancy will request individual event chairman and islands develop and submit 2019 budget requests by January 1, 2019. The 2019 budget will be reviewed and approved at the quarterly January Board of Directors meeting in January, 2019.

MG Heritage Apple Orchard: Julia reported Madrona has responded that the draft MOA is not acceptable to her as it felt like we were trying to separate her and Kwiaht and the orchard project. When asked to make suggestions and changes that would make it acceptable to her, Madrona sent the original draft with minor changes suggesting that maybe she didn't need a MOA and she'd just do the work on a case by case basis. The Master Gardeners want to make sure that Madrona knows her work is valued and important to the project. It was agreed that Julia will write to Madrona noting we greatly appreciated her participation; we hope she will continue to participate; we will definitely pay her for her services going forward; and if she wants to include her activity in the orchard in her professional resume, we have no objections. Going forward we will pay Madrona and other professionals providing services on a fee service basis. Julia will ask Ann and Pat to review her letter to Madrona before it is sent to her.

Julia responded to Caitie and Brooke that we will compensate speakers on an individual event fee basis. An email exchange will always confirm the time, event, hours and cost per hour for services.

Plant Your Own Food Pilot Project: Diana Brooks reported on Seed to Super name changed to Grow your Own Food as the Seeds to Super name is a defined program. The goal of this program is not only to provide education about growing your own food, but to create more collaborative relationships with other county organizations. The Master Gardeners decided to begin with a very small pilot with 4-6 families in June, 2019. We want to reach a wide constituency, including the Hispanic population on the island. A discussion ensued of how to reach populations which do not traditionally attend or know about Master Gardener events and programs. Perhaps a survey through social service agencies to gauge interest, or through the SJ County Family Resource Center which has been intimately involved with the project from the beginning. Kristen Rezabek has suggested working with the FRC, the food bank, and WIC families to advertise the program. We are particularly interested in working with families with pre-school age children, expanding to senior citizens at a later

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date. A survey which Kirsten has developed will be distributed in November, 2018. There has been no budget developed as yet. A committee was formed including Diana Brooks, Janet Ames, Alice Deane, Kristen Rezabek, and Caitie Blethen. The Board was enthusiastic in support of the program.

Spring Plant Sale Grant Application: Mo Sloane reported that The Spring Plant Sale has outgrown its current configuration. There is a tremendous demand for the vegetable starts and perennial plants each year. We need a new greenhouse space, a minimum of 150 square feet, to increase production to meet demand. The options are to find a current greenhouse which would meet our needs and rent space from the owner or to build our own greenhouse. For the 2019 the SPS committee has chosen to germinate and grow starts in members' existing greenhouses. Planning will continue during the 2019 year to finalize plans for either renting a space or building a space. There is a series of meetings over the next few weeks with potential sites to see what is possible. Definitely the SPS committee will need to purchase new equipment this year. This expenditure will be included in the budget request for 2019. The board stressed that it is important a written agreement which covers insurance and details use of existing structures be developed regardless of where the space eventually lands. Short term use agreements need Board approval and insurance and liability confirmed. Long term agreements would need Board input and possible legal review of any written contracts between owner of rented greenhouse space and the MG Foundation. Julia will ask Peggy for advice on legal review of any agreements. Regarding budget, a discussion as to how the SPS will be incorporated in the budget. The Board approved a \$2500.00 grant for equipment and materials for the SPS. Moved by Sandy May, seconded by Diana Brooks and approved unanimously Going forward the SPS will be incorporated as a line item with an annual budget covering all costs.

Fall Workshop Update: About 48 registrants...things generally pick up at this time. Packet building on October 16th on SJI. Flyers are out, speakers confirmed. Going to be a wonderful workshop. Caitie sent out an email for volunteers—Nancy is still looking for two people to be greeters. Caitie will follow up. Things are on track to finish well. Sponsor wise we're at \$1350.00 down from last year of \$1850.00.

Christianson's Nursery in Mt. Vernon has sponsored us this year which is a great boost to the event. Some of the bigger donors are not coming through though they've been asked. Banner advertising the workshop will be hung up in Friday Harbor this week.

Film: Piet Oudolf biography film *Five Seasons*. Jenny Harris proposed to use education funds to support the viewing of this film. Cost is \$300.00 to rent the film and show it to the public at no cost though we could ask for donations. Piet Oudolf is an outstanding person in the ecological/landscape design area of the world. The SJI Grange has donated the space to the MG's for the showing. Care would be taken to schedule time with the ferry schedule. It would be a matinee time slot. Conversation about publicity. Agreed that we would sponsor this showing. Discussion about publicity—display at the island libraries, the garden clubs, and other organizations which might have emails lists. Jenny and Jane will get together a group of people to organize this event. Date of event is Nov. 11, 2018.

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Next Quarterly meeting: on Lopez? January 8, 2019. Lopez folks will reserve the library or find an appropriate place and will organize the agenda. Meeting will be in the morning to accommodate the ferry schedule. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.