

**Master Gardener Foundation of San Juan County
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2017**

Present: Susan Kunk, Dianne Macondray, Sandy May, Lenore Bayuk, Julia Turney, Glenna Pugerude, Nancy Forker, Diana Brooks, Jody Burns

Visitors: Alice Deane, Jane Wentworth, Laurie O'Rourke, Mo Sloane, Laurie O'Rourke, Caitie Blethen.

Introductions: Those attending introduced themselves.

Minutes: Review and approval of July, 2017 minutes. Motion to approve, seconded, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Forker distributed the Balance Sheet as of October 14, 2017, and the Profit and Loss Statement
Current accounts: Total current assets: \$42,034.89. General Fund: \$10,108.24; Lopez Island Fund: \$1,428.88;
Orcas Island Fund: \$1,746.94; SJI Fund: \$22,471.91. Net Income for the year to date: \$6,071.10.

We are still expecting nearly \$2500.00 from Brown Paper Tickets from registration fees for the annual Gardening Workshop. This figure is not represented in the above figures. Comparison to Jan. 2016, net assets were approximately \$35,000.00 in 2016.

Profit and Loss report from January, 2017 to date. We have spent less than we projected in the budget approved for 2017 though the demo garden has exceeded its projected budget. This is not a major concern.

Developing the 2018 budget: Timeline: At the end of October, Nancy will send 2017 data to appropriate committee chairmen/persons asking for projected budgets for 2018 to be submitted by January 1, 2018, with We will discuss and adopt the 2018 budget at the January, 2018 board meeting.

The committee chairmen are as follows: Native Plant Sale: Jane Wentworth (Caitie Blethen); Spring Plant Sale: Alice Deane and Lenore Bayuk; Farmers' Market; Tarica; Annual Gardening Workshop, Kate Yturri; Diagnostic Clinic: Julia Turney and Kate Yturri.

Computer Technology:

Web Page: Question was raised about the possibility of building a log-in area on the MGF web site which would be a portal only Foundation members could access and would have additional information and resources. It would be more costly. Julia will research the cost and report back. Use of the web site varies depending upon the time of year and events being held. It was suggested that all signatures on Foundation mailings always have a link to the web site. Diana Brooks offered to be the editor of the web site, noting what needs to be taken down, etc. while Sandy May will continue to be the technical administrator. Photos from the workshop should be forwarded to Sandy May to put up on the web site.

A discussion about the implementation of computer technology for the program followed a report on the 2017 Diagnostic Clinic Summary. The board decided to appoint a committee to evaluate the IT needs of the Foundation, including sharing of information among members and groups, collecting information for reports which WSU requests, facilitating the NPS ordering and data base, best practices for the web page and other public interfaces. Sandy May, Laurie O'Rourke, Mo Sloane, Judy Weiner, Susan Kunk, Tony Suruda, and Caitie Blethen volunteered to be on the committee.

Heritage Apple Orchard Project Status: Pat Kuntzel, who was unable to attend, sent a report on the project. They applied for King County Key grant, but not received. They were encouraged to reapply in 2018 as their grant application was runner up. On August 16th, Brook and Pat met with Lopez Chamber of Commerce (who manages the county owned land on which ten of the trees will be planted). The CofC approved the planting, having been reassured that fallen apples would be removed promptly. The cost of mowing is still a concern. On August 24, 2017, Brook, Caitie, Anne and Pat met with the SJCounty Park Board to obtain permission to use the county land for the orchard. The County is enthusiastic and approved the use. Donna Wuthrow, head of SJCounty Parks will work with the Lopez Chamber of Commerce regarding mowing and will work with Brook regarding the MOA between the Master Gardeners/WSU and the County. The Lopez Garden Club has awarded \$600.00 to the project. They have applied for grant from San Juan Island Chamber of Commerce to use some of the lodging tax to help support the project. They will present in the Chamber offices on August 16, 2017. They will present to the LTAC on October 27, 2017 and encourage all MG's who would like to do so to attend in support. A planting day will be selected in November and all MG's are invited to attend.

Diagnostic Clinic Summary: Had a very busy year with lots of samples through the entire season. Both Kate and Julia would like to transition out of management of the clinic, and on Orcas Tony Suruda and Leslie Hutchinson have both volunteered to help, and on SJI Nancy Larson and Kim Blair have volunteered to participate in the leadership. Lopez would like to have their own diagnostic clinic because they believe it is difficult to get to either Orcas or SJI. If there is some leadership on Lopez to organize this effort, it would be welcome. There is a need to develop a communication system to share information between island groups about diagnostic questions and solutions. Caitie has learned of software licensed by WSU called Share Point. Clark County uses this application quite successfully. The Master Gardeners of Clark County have volunteered to visit SJI and show us how to use it. The resulting discussion of technology produced a decision to form a technology/computer use committee to evaluate program and user technology needs and report to the Foundation board. See above for details.

Native Plant Sale, 2018: Jane reported the plant sale will be March 16/17, 2018. A committee has been working together to flesh out the order form. Bare root plants have been ordered from the PMC. Container plants are being selected currently. Discussion of our relationship with Salish Seed Bank/ Land Bank. This is the third year we have ordered seeds from them. It has been suggested that the MG's be responsible for potting up our orders from the Salish Seed Bank. Following discussion it was decided that we would not like to be responsible for potting up the plants which we buy from the Salish Seed Bank. We would like to be treated as a customer only. We will continue to encourage MG's to volunteer at the nursery. Jane will convey this decision to Eliza. A short discussion of the value and goals of the NPS followed. We agreed that the community education component was equally important as the funds raised. Question raised if the container plants impact the amount of money we can raise since our profit margin is smaller on container plants than on bare root plants. It was agreed that the combination of plant resources is important and should be continued.

2018 Officer/Bd Nominating Committee Planning: Positions open in June, 2018: President, Treasurers Pat ntzel (Lopez), Diana Brooks (SJI), and one Orcas Island director as Kate Yturri is resigning from the board. Current officers and directors are limited to two consecutive terms. Diana Brooks will continue to a second term. Glenda will ask Pat if she is willing to stay for a second term. Election will be in April. Nancy will be chair of the committee but she will need help. Committee will be active after January, 2018. Nice to have a representative from each island on the committee.

Member Recognition: Puget Sound Master Gardener Foundation was evidently formed in 1987, though we didn't know about it! Julia went to a small event at which they gave out pins with the number of hours each has done. Reminded that volunteer hours are counted as in kind monies when budget requests are made to SJCounty and grants are submitted to funding agencies. A short discussion about the importance of entering volunteer hours and how best to encourage volunteers to do this. Julia asked if the board was interested in contributing \$150.00 to purchase pins for volunteers at increments of 100, 500, and 1000 hours. She'll submit it as part of the proposed 2018 budget.

County Fair Report: There was not a ton of enthusiasm for joining the SJCounty Fair Committee which designs and organizes the MG booth at the SJCounty Fair though the shifts at the Fair were completely filled without much trouble. Wide ranging discussion the benefits of having a booth at the fair considering the lack of enthusiasm by MG's to organize this event. Is it a good use of our time, energy and money? Should we do it for 2018? We could participate in the Ag Tent with a table of information and a single presentation rather than have our own booth. After much discussion it was decided to begin recruitment and planning of the 2018 booth early in 2018 with the goal that all planning and organizing would be done by June, 2018. All agreed that we needed one or two volunteers to own this event. Dianne Macondray agreed to be a co-chair of the event if a second person could be recruited. Caitie will send out an email to all MG's advertising this opportunity. Caitie has reported some statistics from the Fair: We talked with 272 individuals (adults and children); gave over 50 pollinator information sheets out; 15 MG Program and training opportunities brochures; and 14 people signed up to receive information about the 2018 NPS.

Next Meeting: Jan. 2018. Julia will send out a Doodle to find a common date on which most people can attend. Meeting adjourned.