

Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President **Maryann Horgan** at 9:00am. In attendance were Merry MacBarb, Amanda Kiel, Sonia Smith, Fred Mina, Maryann Horgan, Jeanne Pavero, Vicki Fuhrmann, Kay Swenson, Lynn Eriquez, Jenny Newton, Sam Marshall, Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman and Anne Coleman.

President's Message President Horgan polled board members on who was planning to attend the Charleston Garden Tour on April 21 which is the same date as the next Executive Board meeting. It was determined there will be sufficient board members available to hold the April meeting, and **Jean Pavero** will lead the meeting.

The Brunswick County 4H group has approached the BCMGVA for a possible donation of \$100 to assist a local high school student in paying for a horticultural 4H summer camp. Agreement was made to offer the scholarship in exchange for approximately 10 hours of service in the Botanical Garden. The Botanical Garden budget will fund the donation.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield is sponsoring a Leadership Training Conference in Durham, NC March 22- 23 for developing strong collaboration between board and staff. Board members wishing to attend were asked to let **Sam Marshall** know by 2/19 so he may complete registration.

The Sun News published in Myrtle Beach, SC has asked if the BCMGVA would provide a monthly article on timely gardening topics. President Horgan will ask for volunteers at the monthly meeting, and **Tom Woods** will be the final editor of all articles submitted.

Minutes The January 2016 Executive Board Meeting minutes submitted by **Anne Coleman** were accepted by the board.

Financial Report The January 2016 Treasurer's Report presented by **Merry MacBarb** was reviewed and approved. Educational/Training funds were received totaling \$2100 as well as membership dues of \$480. Expenses were associated with meeting costs and the purchase of additional Metro Mix, leaving an ending balance as of January 31 of \$25,986.92. The 2016 Budget statement was reissued to correct a typographical error.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Corresponding Secretary – **Jenny Newton** sent two 'Thank You' notes and one 'Get Well' note to a former Master Gardener. Membership- **Lynn Eriquez** requested the template for the membership meeting attendance sheet.

Liaison Committee to NCEMGVA– **Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman** provided the liability insurance information to **Tom Woods** discussed at the January General Meeting. She stated there will be no state conference this year, but it is expected NCSU will host the conference in 2017.

Botanical Garden Committee– The committee met on January 27 to walk the garden and review the committee budget. As a money saving measure 2-3 inches of county mulch will be applied throughout the garden with a top dressing of a more attractive material. This will be done in March. The next meeting will be February 29 when the committee will focus on its structure and voting criteria.

Plant Sale Committee— **Vickie Fuhrmann** announced there were approximately 25 Master Gardeners who helped with the plug planting on February 5, and the committee will now meet every other Monday in preparation for the sales. **Maryann Horgan** received positive feedback regarding the plant sales when speaking to the St. James Garden Club recently.

Speakers & Library – **Sonia Smith** has arranged for Greg Goldfuss to be the February meeting speaker. In March Margaret Shelton will be the guest speaker, Tracy Scrabble from NC Coastal will speak in April and **Mary Dixon** is slated for May. A representative from Save the Cape is scheduled for a summer meeting,

EXTENSION COORDINATORS' REPORTS AND UPDATES

Sam Marshall reported he will be a guest speaker on the PBS show, 'Almanac Gardener'. He anticipates exploring three educational segments: Gardening on the Beach, Composting and a tour of The Botanical Garden. Filming will begin in May.

The Leland Library has asked the Extension office to offer on-site 'Plant Clinics'. This may offer an opportunity to develop a seasonal Info-Line service modeled after the successful Hickman Road Library Info-Line service.

Brunswick County is partnering with three surrounding counties to develop and offer regional advanced training for Master Gardeners. Sam anticipates the first topic will cover 'GMOs'.

Sam warned when identifying ourselves we must be sure to state we are either 'Extension Master Gardeners' or we are 'Master Gardener Volunteers'. Simply stating we are 'Master Gardeners' is not correct and forfeits any insurance umbrella from the county.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:2016 Revised Bylaws and Policy & Procedures – **Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman** highlighted the proposed changes. One additional change was proposed to the Budget/Financial Planning Committee which will allow for membership approval of the budget by December 31 of each year. A successful vote was taken to eliminate the Indemnification Clause, paragraph 7, of the Policies and Procedures. Approval was given to present the revisions along with the board recommended changes to the membership at the March General Meeting.

Sam Marshall advised the BCMGVA has several possible entries for the 2017 International Master Gardener Search for Excellence (SFE) Awards. He would like to nominate The House Calls Program, The Hickman Road Library Project and The Hands-On Horticulture for 6th graders. He would like these projects nominated for the state awards as well.

Amanda Kiel urged the board to apply for grants and donations for future projects instead of funding all activities through revenues and dues.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary

