

NC State Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteer Association of Brunswick County

General Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **Jeanne Pavero** at 9:05am with 29 members present. Refreshments for the meeting were supplied by **Judi Thuer** and **Debbie Duffy**.

President's Message

President Pavero updated the membership on many items. The Plant Swap scheduled after the meeting was expected to be a success. Three members of the current Master Gardener class were introduced. **Hank Rapp** is in the process of officially changing the association name at the state level. A copy of the prior month's meeting minutes will be available at the sign in table for review, and the Treasurer's report will be posted in the Weekly Weeder. The fence in the Botanical Garden for the Children's Garden was installed. Members were reminded to post their volunteer hours. The Nominating Committee is searching for members to fill next year's open positions. Jeanne stated she has many vibrant and fun ideas for 2018, and is being assisted by **Gayle Pfeiffer** and **Krystyna Ochota** to impart knowledge not only to the community but also to members. President Pavero thanked **Vicki Fuhrmann** for her leadership in the financially successful on-line plant sale. The New Hanover Master Gardeners are sponsoring a field trip to Brookgreen Gardens on November 30.

Membership Acceptance

The Minutes from the August 2017 meeting submitted by **Anne Coleman** were accepted with no revisions.

The Treasurer's report is now published monthly in the Weekly Weeder, and the June report issued by **Hank Rapp** was accepted by membership. Monies received during the month totaled \$2,691.99, monies paid out totaled \$2,201.61 leaving a month end balance of \$43,695.16.

Committee Reports

Correspondence Committee- **Dotti Hunkele** reported issuing a 'Thank You' note to Rebecca Skiba for her presentation on Bats at the last meeting and a 'Thank You' for the donation of funds at the dissolution of the Winding River Garden Club. She issued a 'Thinking of You' note to Mary Dixon's husband and a condolence card to Ellie Bierman on the death of her brother. A 'Thank You' note was received from a House Call recipient and a letter from Becky's Bulbs explained a check would be sent once the association's rebate amounted to at least \$25. **Amanda Kiel** will add the Becky's Bulbs link to the Weekly Weeder, and recommended a plant be installed and dedicated to the Winding River Garden Club in appreciation for their donation.

Liaison Committee – **Vicki Fuhrmann** reported **Donna Coulson** will attend the next quarterly state meeting in Greensboro.

Plant Sale Committee – The on-line plant sale managed by Gardens Direct (a subsidiary of Johnson's Nursery) produced approximately \$9500 in sales and netted a \$2000 donation to the association. Vicki Fuhrmann stated

the new 2017 on-line sale process was necessary because it had grown too large over the past three years to be handled by the association. While the 2016 on-line sale yielded \$20,000 in sales and a profit of \$7000, it came at a cost of 500 to 700 volunteer hours by the committee. In reviewing the process Vicki found the 2017 sale was a financial success but did not meet the association's need to conduct community outreach. If the committee is to revert to the prior process more participation is needed by the membership. Vicki will continue to lead the Plant Sale Committee through 2018 but will resign those duties in 2019.

Botanical Garden Committee- **Maryann Horgan** reported the committee met with a sign maker to determine appropriate guidelines for six garden signs in the Botanical Garden. The signs will be 18'x24', and will be part of the 2018 budget expenses. She attended one of the new Master Gardener classes and introduced the students to working in the Botanical Garden.

Hardscape – **Fred Mina's** team is investigating a possible leak in the hoop house. **Amanda Kiel** requested additional shelves for the potting shed.

Speakers – **Sonia Smith** arranged for David Barkley as speaker for today's meeting, Margaret Shelton on herbs for October and Tom Erickson from Transplanted Garden for November. A professor from UNCW will speak at the January meeting on rising sea levels.

Extension Coordinators Reports and Updates

No Extension personnel attended the monthly meeting.

New Business

A planning group consisting of **Jeanne Pavero, Krystyna Ochota** and **Gayle Pfeiffer** looked at combining scholarship, education, speakers, field trips and Extension office collaboration into a new Education Committee.

Maryann Horgan announced a new garden shop in Southport selling only research based climate compatible plants called 'All in Bloom.'

A sign-up sheet was passed for volunteers wishing to help with the Christmas Party on December 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Speaker: David Barkley

Submitted by Anne Coleman
Recording Secretary