

Board Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2015

Hilton Hotel
Vancouver (Clark County), WA

Attendance:

Board Members:

George Frey (Pierce), President	Margaret Morris (Yakima), Treasurer
John Strong (Yakima), Secretary	Lorraine Fritsch (Klickitat)
Bob Taylor (Lewis)	Judy Callahan (Skagit)
Sandy Atkinson (Thurston)	Nancy Dillon (Mason)
Sherry Kanode (Kitsap)	Ronda Welling (Asotin)
Kathy Brenberger (Benton-Franklin)	Kathleen Eaton (Snohomish)
Karen Russo (Pacific-Grays Harbor)	Cindy Good (Island)
Candice Gohn (Jefferson)	Barbara Guiland (Grant-Adams)
Patricia Bosh (Cowlitz)	MaryJo Christensen (Lewis)

Guests:

Ken Tolonen (Yakima)	Laura Stanley (Kittitas Foundation Pres.)
Renee Reinhardt (Cowlitz)	

1. President George Frey called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.
2. George asked for agenda additions. Other than two George added (2016 awards and October meeting), there were none.
3. Consent Calendar:

Ronda Welling asked if there had been board discussion about the investment of and long-term goals for the use of MGFWS funds. Discussion of her question led to a discussion of how we plan and conduct the annual Advanced Education Conference. Focus returned to the consent calendar, and it was moved by Karen and seconded by Kathleen that the consent calendar be passed. It was, unanimously.
4. As part of the consent calendar discussion, Kathleen moved that a committee be formed to examine ideas for the planning and financing of Advanced Education Conference. Kathy seconded. Passed. Volunteers for that committee are: Laura Stanley, Kathy Brenberger, Renee Reinhardt, Candice Gohn, Patricia Bosh, Kathleen Eaton and Cindy Good. Candice suggested asking another person from Island County to attend because of their experience and success with the Whidbey Gardening Workshop.
5. Candice moved and Lorraine seconded that the minutes of last year's annual meeting be approved. Motion passed.
6. Committee Reports:
 - a) Nominating: Kathleen Eaton announced that George Frey has decided to resign his presidency after the coming year. She has approached several people to run as his replacement, and asks for more suggestions. Discussion revealed that there are also vacancies for VP Metro and VP Peninsula. Candice said she might run for VP Peninsula.
 - b) Awards: Kathleen Eaton reported that the Presidential awards would be announced at the Conference in the coming days. Awards for those winners who are not present will be given to their coordinators.

It is important that Kathleen receive volunteer-hours-served data sooner in the year than she did this year. That lateness and the complicated federal award process necessitated the expense of express shipping, which significantly impacted the overall cost of the awards this year.

7. County Input / Ideas:
 - a. Island County -- Cindy Good shared the announcement of the next Whidbey Gardening Workshop to be held on March 5, 2016. Dan Hinkley will be the keynote speaker. There will be 40 available classes from which to pick and attend during three sessions. Fee will be \$40, and lunch will be available. Island County's annual workshop has become a standard of excellence over the years, and many locals and visitors look forward to it annually. Online registration will open early next year.
 - b. Benton-Franklin – Kathy invited us to share in the dedication of their new waterfall feature at the demo garden on October 8th. It has turned out to exceed their wildest expectations, and will be a magnificent enhancement of their already impressive gardens.
8. New Business
 - a. George reminded us that, since no county has stepped up to host the 2016 conference, we will have no place at which to present the annual awards, as is normally done. Discussion concluded that we still nominate and select awardees, and that presentations be made at celebrations in the winner's home counties. Inasmuch as possible, we would try to have representation from the state board be present. Winners would also be recognized at the 2017 conference.
 - b. Award nominations: There is a need for a consistent format for the committee to use in judging our annual awards. Patricia moved and Cindy seconded a motion to use the bullet-point criteria and nomination formats for Media and Ed LaCrosse awards that were recently sent to members by Kathleen (attached). Motion passed. It was also requested that Kathleen create similar criteria and cover sheet application for the Master Gardener of the Year award.
 - c. George asked if we should formally decide to abandon the October meeting plans. This topic was discussed at our last meeting, but no decision was made. Since we formed a new conference committee, and we have other committees that have work to do, it was decided we would gather on October 23rd for a brief board meeting, and then split up to conduct committee business. George will announce the location soon. It will be in Pierce County.
 - d. There was some discussion of the recent dismissal of a Master Gardener volunteer in Pend Oreille County by a WSU Extension staff person. Ultimately this is a matter for MG State Leader Nicole, University Extension leadership, and Human Resources to resolve.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 11:00am pursuant to a motion and second by Patricia and Kathleen.

Respectfully submitted by

John Strong, Secretary

George Frey, President

Attachments:

Nomination formats
Nomination criteria