

**Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State
Board Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2017**

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Cougar Auditorium, Snohomish Co. Extension, Everett, WA

Attendance:

Board Members:

Kathleen Eaton (Snohomish), Int. Pres.	Bob Taylor (Lewis)
John Strong (Yakima), Secretary	Michelle Nyman (Jefferson)
Margaret Morris (Yakima), Treasurer	Meralee Nash (Pierce)
Candice Gohn (Jefferson), VP Peninsula	Sandy Atkinson (Thurston)
MaryJo Christensen (Lewis), VP SW	Dode Carlson (Snohomish)
Al Call (Skagit)	Sandy Keathly (Whatcom)
Karen Russo (Pacific-Grays Harbor)	Linda Bergquist (Whatcom)
Jo Tuom (Cowlitz)	George Loosier (Kittitas)
Patricia Bosh (Cowlitz)	
Nicole Martini (WSU MG Program Leader & Ex-Officio member)	

Guests:

Ken Tolonen (Yakima)	Richelle Taylor (Snohomish)
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- 1) President Kathleen opened the meeting at 9:30 am with thanks to Richelle Taylor who prepared an excellent morning repast as well as a delicious lunch. Introductions were made around the table.
- 2) Minutes from the October 21, 2016 meeting were amended to include the attendance of Elizabeth Sims (Grays Harbor-Pacific) and Jo Tuom (Cowlitz). With those corrections the minutes were approved.
- 3) Treasurer Margaret presented the Treasurer's Report. Sandy K asked what the \$600 donation was. It was explained it came from one James Silverman, of Massachusetts. It is not known how the gentleman came to know of us and make a donation. But of course, it is very much appreciated! It was also pointed out that a restaurant in Houston, TX intends to donate proceeds from a day's business in April. We can only surmise that these donations may have been prompted by our website. Last year we received \$5,000 in gifts from anonymous donors. Additionally, we received \$6.90 from Amazon Smile in February.
The \$199 charge under Supplies was explained to be for the purchase of an updated version of QuickBooks for the treasurer.
There are two CDs that mature in the coming months. Margaret suggested that proceeds from those be deposited in savings and left until after we know the financial results of the Advanced Education Conference in September. At that time, we can investigate buying new CDs. Moved (Michelle) Seconded (Pat) to do just that. Passed.
Kathleen requested \$140 / year for the hosting and domain name fees for a new website. Hosting our website through WSU has been found to be too restrictive. Moved (Bob) Seconded (Candice) to add that to our budget. Passed.
Margaret asked if we should deposit non-specified donations directly to the Endowment. There was some discussion. It was moved (Sandy K) and seconded (Karen) to do so, and passed.
- 4) The vacancy of Regional Vice President in the Metro Region was filled when Dode volunteered to take on that position, and she was unanimously elected by the two representatives (Snohomish and Pierce) from that region.

- 5) John presented a report on the upcoming Advanced Education Conference in Yakima, scheduled for September 20 – 23. The invitation video produced by Yakima volunteers was shown and well received.

The theme of the conference is “Can You Dig It?!” and is based in part on the popular 1960’s – 1970’s top-40 hit: *Grazing in the Grass*, by The Friends of Distinction. The fun, flower-child, peace and love themes of that era are influencing our Conference this year, and all attendees are encouraged to participate with era costumes and fun attitudes.

A stellar lineup of keynote speakers and classroom instructors has been lined up. The detailed schedule is nearly complete. The website is live, and online registration will be made live March 31st. MGFWS Board members, local foundation presidents, and local Program Coordinators will receive an email over this weekend with information and links to both the invitation video and the website. Please share/forward that email and those links to everyone in your respective county programs.

- 6) The host county of the prior conference has traditionally operated the Raffle at the Conference. Clark County has declined this opportunity, so it falls to the MGFWS board to come up with a plan. By consensus, it was decided that board members would conduct the raffle, including the organization of donated items (MaryJo will spearhead) and sales of tickets. We will investigate the purchase of a number of specially designed hats, to identify raffle ticket sellers, and to make available for sale in the Conference Store.
- 7) Kathleen led the assembled group in brainstorming ways to raise funds to meet our initial goal of \$25,000 to begin our Endowment, and then to complete the goal of \$2 Million.
- a) Brainstormed Ideas are listed here, with names shown of persons responsible.
 - i) Grant Writing – Several people have had some experience with grants. Dode will act as a “clearing house” for grant proposals, so as to eliminate the chance of duplication. All grant applications will be sent first to Kathleen, who will enlist the help of WSU Endowment staff to polish them.
 - (1) Research billionaire foundations to identify those most likely to react positively to our requests for grants – Pat B
 - (2) George will look into the Colville Tribe as a possible donor.
 - (3) Nicole will send information to Kathleen about the Stewardship Partners, and the Russell Foundation.
 - ii) Ask other states for their ideas and successes in fund raising – Al Call will do this.
 - iii) “Raise the Paddle” event at the Advanced Education Conference in September. -- Kathleen and John will work on that.
 - iv) Ask local Foundations to consider a donation to the state’s Endowment. Suggest holding a special event, or a percentage of plant sale, or raffle, etc. – All board members will take this back to their Foundations.
 - v) Promote contributions on the website. -- Kathleen
 - vi) Go Fund Me online campaign – Nicole and Kathleen
- 8) After lunch the meeting was reconvened. Kathleen stressed that fund-raising efforts must be coordinated through her, as noted above. This will ensure consistency of message, eliminate duplication, and provide an organized way to get professional advice from Linda Bailey’s office at WSU Endowments. Methods of donation were discussed. How does one donate? What name should go on the check as payee? There is an online form, is there a form for offline donations? Linda Bailey will provide answers for us.
- To help in telling our story, we will use the MG Fact Sheet, prepared by Nicole. Her target for completing that for 2016 is mid-April.

- 9) Nicole presented her Program Leader's report.
 - a) She is excited to be able to host a panel at the Conference about Foundation vs. Program.
 - b) The Tree Stewardship Training is again experiencing delays. Some key contributors have left, and the peer-review process is consuming additional time.
 - c) The update of the MG Training Manual is expected to be complete by the end of this year. It is also being peer-reviewed, and suffers from similar challenges and delays as item 9)b) above.
 - d) A search is underway for a new Dean of CAHNRS. There is a musical chairs event being played out to cover responsibilities in various leadership offices among colleges and Extension. While it's difficult to follow the players without a scorecard, it appears that all is going well in the interim!
 - e) A Program Coordinator meeting is scheduled for June 2nd, in Wenatchee.
 - f) A Pesticide Survey will begin in May. Information will be sent to the Coordinators.
 - g) A search is underway for a State 4-H Program Leader.
 - h) State Master Gardener Week is planned for the third week of May.
- 10) Pat B asked for volunteers to score Master Gardener of the Year applications. She has developed a rubric to help in that effort, making it easy to participate in the scoring process. The request for nominations will go out in April, and are due the first of June.
- 11) Dode will head up the effort to solicit nominations and coordinate the selection of the Media and Ed LaCrosse Awardees.
- 12) Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

John Strong, Secretary

Kathleen Eaton, President