

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 8, 2018
Extension Office
6:30 P.M.

In attendance: Lori Kempen Ellen Terwilliger, Nina Logan, Mary Jane Griffin, Dick Lienhardt, Paula Bonnin, Erin LaFaive, Ede Strand, Carla Pelzl

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M. by President Mary Jane Griffin.

Election of officers for 2018: The officers who had served for 2016 and 2017 agreed to continue in office for another two-year term: Mary Jane Griffin – President, Dick Lienhardt – Vice President, Ede Strand – Treasurer, and Carla Pelzl, Secretary. The board approved the 2018 slate of officers.

2018 Plant Sale: Members of the Plant Sale Planning Committee are Mary Jane Griffin, Sue Merten, and Judy Wibel. The sale, which is being co-hosted by the ECAMGVA and the Hosta Society, is Sunday, June 10th, beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the Phoenix Park Pavilion. Mary Jane mentioned that help will be needed from MG volunteers. Ede Strand is arranging for use of the pavilion, and she and Mary Jane will coordinate the sale hours, etc. Donated plants will not have to have the roots bleached. Educational information about jumping worms will be available for shoppers. A sale planning meeting will probably be held in March.

Secretary's Report: Carla Pelzl

The minutes from November 2017 were approved as written. (Motion by Ellen T., Seconded by Dick L.; Motion passed)

Treasurer's Report: Ede Strand

Lori Kempen and Ede will review the books. Ede reported that WIMGA had sent a request to all the state associations for donations for door prizes for their annual auction fundraiser. A \$75.00 donation was approved.

Ede will follow up with the Eau Claire County Land Conservation Office regarding an outstanding check from 2017. That check was the speaker fee for Dan Zerr for his presentation at the 2017 Garden Seminar. As an Eau Claire County employee, Dan cannot accept personal checks, but he was going to pass it on to the appropriate person at the Land Conservation Office. The board wants to be assured that the county received the check and was able to use it for the intended purpose. Total income from the seminar will be updated at the March 2018 board meeting.

A motion was made to accept the report with recommended adjustments. (Motion by Ellen T., Seconded by Lori K., Motion passed)

Budget for 2018:

Seminar registrations totaled about 130, which was down from the three prior years. Ede reported a net loss of about \$1256.69 for 2017 (as of the December 2017 end-of-year statement of income/expenses.) As part of a discussion on what to budget for MG Training Scholarships, Ellen T. proposed that our association make five to six \$50.00 scholarships available to ECAMGAV's for the 2018 WIMGA State MG Conference. \$300.00 was agreed upon for this purpose. The budget for 2018 was accepted.

Horticulture Educator's Report: Erin LaFaive

The board was informed that Erin would be resigning her position at the end of February. She has been moving her supplies to an area that would be more accessible to MGV's after her departure.

Erin summarized possible scenarios regarding the horticulture educator position moving forward:

- The position will not be filled.
- Hire one educator for the three county area (Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire).
- Hire a coordinator to oversee the three counties. The hours for that position would not be full time.

Sue Gallagher has been coordinating the Sessions Street garden and is willing to continue doing so. There have not been any volunteers yet to oversee the Teaching Garden program, or the North River Front Kids' Garden. The remaining open positions could be shared positions.

Andy Heren will take over sending messages to MGV's. Mike Maddox will also serve as a contact for our organization.

Education Program Committee Report update: Nina L. and Lori K.

February 19, 2018 – Aquatic Invasive Species – A. J. Leiden, Beaver Creek Reserve, at the Ext. Office.

March – Permaculture – Mary Jackson

April – Asian Edible Plants and Cooking with them – Chef LaLaine Gunem

May – Wild Edibles – Jim Schwiebert

June – The Nature of Bears – David Schmitt of Haycreek Outfitters

July – Garden Tours, date TBA

August – TBA

September – State WIMGA Conference in Eau Claire

Meeting Site for the monthly Monday evening educational meetings:

Ellen mentioned the Chippewa Valley Technical School's Energy Education Center. She will follow up with that site. Paula Bonnin will check availability at the Senior Center, RCU, the Wisconsin Credit Union, and the Presbyterian Church.

WIMGA Update: Ellen Terwilliger

Ellen reported that registration for the State WIMGA Conference is available online. The early bird cost is \$105.00 (without the tours). After that the charge is \$125 without the tours. Many volunteers will be needed.

Old Business: The January board meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm. There will a final report on the Winter Garden Seminar at the March board meeting.

Next meeting: March 8, 2018, at 1:00 P.M. at the Extension Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 P.M. by President Mary Jane Griffin. (Motion by Ede Strand, Seconded by Lori Kempen, Motion passed)

After the meeting, our retiring Horticulture Educator, Erin LaFaive was thanked for her ten years of service to Eau Claire County, and for so ably facilitating the Master Gardener Volunteer Association Program. She will certainly be missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Pelzl, Secretary