

Houston County Master Gardener Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Location: Justice Center

Present: Loretta Knutson, Mike & Jennifer Wiste, Mary & Lane Zaffke, Charmaine Uphaus, Barb Hefte, Jean Davy, Janene Hosch, Sue Meyer, Anna May, Char Meiners

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Loretta briefly reviewed the minutes of the April meeting. On motion by Janene, the minutes were approved.

Sue Meyer offered to host the summer picnic on July 10th at 5:30 p.m. at Winnebago Springs. This will be a pot luck and spouses are invited to attend.

Discussion was held regarding Kids Fest event which is scheduled for Saturday, June 16th in Caledonia from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Master Gardener booth's theme will be "Love Your Melon". Loretta applied for and received a Thrivent grant to purchase 39 bike helmets that will be given to children at this event. Information will be distributed on helmet safety. Thrivent t-shirts will be given away. There will be melon water and possibly an herb water available. A drawing will be held for several plants. There will also be information available regarding the Master Gardener Program. Mary Zaffke will supply arm band reflectors to be given away, which she received through the child and teen checkup program.

Janene reported that she purchased 8 melons for the Fun Fest event and asked for approval to be reimbursed for the cost. On motion by Jennifer Wiste, reimbursement was approved.

Charmaine reported that Terri Kohler could not be here this evening, but she asked her to drop off some pollinator information for use at the fair booth. Mary Zaffke will deliver this to the Extension Office for storage until it is needed at the fair. It was also agreed that Anna will provide microgreens for the fair event. Mary Zaffke also plans to make a bee house for pollinators. Lane and Sue offered to bring pots of herbs.

Janene reported that the plant exchange went well. There were 30 people in attendance and only a few plants left over.

Jean Davy reported on a Hosta class which she attended through La Crescent Community Education.

Mary Zaffke reported that the Fillmore County Master Gardener Tour is this Saturday and they would like to have four Master Gardeners from Houston County assist with their event. After discussion it was agreed that there are too many events this weekend, so there is no one available from our group to assist them.

Discussion was held regarding articles for the newspaper. The last one was published on January 24th. There were concerns voiced regarding having to cite sources, as well as how effective the articles are. After discussion, motion was made by Janene, seconded by Jean and unanimously carried to only write articles on events the Master Gardeners have done or have coming up. Loretta offered to write the next article about the fair and the Fun Fest event.

Discussion was held regarding the concern that scholarships are being given out, but no receipts are turned in, nor are any reports made as to how the money was spent. It was pointed out that community gardens we fund are supposed to report on the number of pounds of food they generate. It was felt that a committee should work to draft guidelines for accountability. Mary Zaffke offered to meet with Mary Thompson in this regard prior to the July meeting, at which time they will give a report and/or a recommendation.

Charmaine reported that the checking account currently has a balance of \$3,115.34 and the savings account has a balance of \$2,406.51 for a total of \$5,521.85.

Janene offered to host the Christmas party this year.

Motion was made by Charmaine, seconded by Mary Zaffke and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Char Meiners in the absence of Terri Kolar.

Loretta