

Houston County Master Gardening Meeting

Date: 7-10-2018

Present: Loretta Knutson & spouse, Sue Meyer & spouse, Janene Hosch, Jean Davy & spouse, Mary Thompson, Charmaine Uphaus & spouse, Terri Kolar, Doug Thompson, Lane Zaffke, Jennifer Wiste, Michael Wiste, Barb Hefte & spouse, Char Meiners & spouse, Michael Cruse.

Absent: Linda Lind, Brenda Pohlman, Sarah Goff, Kathleen Taylor, Mary Zaffke, Vicki Otto, Anna May.

Location: Beautiful Winnebago Springs much appreciation to our wonderful host Sue M. We received a tour and the tables all had beautiful flowers grown by Sue. Thank you!

Welcome. Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Loretta

Treasury Report: Provided by Charmaine checking \$3115.34, Savings \$2406.81 for a total of \$5522.15

Old Business:

- Loretta noted that everyone had received last month's minutes, asked if corrections or clarifications. None. On motion by Mary T, the minutes were approved as written.
- School garden grants. Mary T and Mary Z met prior to meeting and discussed follow up for school grants. School garden follow up presented by Mary T. Follow up items are listed on the paperwork that they receive, specific items are listed, and they are directed when to turn in the requested information. Routinely this has not been happening. Mary T talked with local public health that also does grants specifically how they handle follow up. They indicated they end up doing follow up phone calls. Mary T wonders if we could piggyback onto the public health follow up. We are still working on the idea of gardening champions to increase local enthusiasm. One suggestion was in lieu of a grant that we pay the tuition/gas to the school garden conference for 1-2 people (teachers), and the school could be approached to give the staff the day as an education day. Mary T also suggested a subcommittee for the school garden grants, and possible a youth MG subcommittee. Another suggestion is a MG assigned to each school receiving a grant. We will put more thought into this and continue discussion at the next meeting.
- Loretta sent letters to all persons that had expressed interest in becoming a master gardener. In the letter she directed them to contact Michael. No one has contacted him yet.
- Report from Janene and Jean on funfest "Wheelin through the Garden". Loretta had applied for and received a Thrivent grant which was used to purchase and distribute 39 bicycle helmets. Handouts were provided on how to properly wear the helmets. The public health department provided reflective arm band tape. Thrivent t-shirts were given away. Water melon water and lemon balm water were on hand during the hot day and were a big hit. Bicycle planters were made by Jean D and Michael W, there was a drawing at the end of the day for these. It was a fun busy day from 8 am to 4:30 pm with over 218 people through the booth. BJ,

Janene, Mary T, Jenn, Michael W, Jean. Loretta and Char all assisted. They were already asked to participate in this event again next year!

New Business:

Fair-August 15-19th. Theme will focus on pollinators. Set up Tuesday night at 5:30pm, tear down Sunday 4 pm. A signup sheet was passed around for everyone to sign up to help; extra times were added for kid's day and family day. It was agreed the MG would again be providing two \$25 dollar awards, to best in open and best in 4H. Mike W will bring the head in the hole. Group discussed getting pollinator bookmarks printed. Anna will provide her microgreens poster and microgreens for tasting again this year. Michael C replenished the supplies in our display box.

Michael C reported that the Fillmore County Master Garden Tour was successful with 55 people in attendance. He picked up our garden signs. Fillmore County MG is posing the questions to our group if we plan to have a garden tour in 2019? They may do a garden tour June 22, 2019 and wondered if we could be presenters. They also said they could be available to be presenters at our spring garden conference. We are still undecided on our plans at this time.

Regional meetings are happening around the area, Red Wing has one on vegetables for everyone.

Tasks:

Thinking ahead:

Janene has offered to host the Christmas party.

Sharing Ideas:

Char and Sue went to an invasive species conference and said it was very interesting. Lots of invasives such as wild garlic, wild parsnips, nutsedge, and buckthorn to name a few.

Loretta and Linda attended a meeting at the library which discussed old time plants of MN.

Volunteer Hours this meeting: 2 hours plus travel time

Next Meeting: Date 8-14-2018 5:30pm brief meeting before or after fair setup. **Location** fair floral hall.

Minutes by Terri Kolar

Loretta