

## Houston County Master Gardeners Meeting

September 11, 2018, at the CJC Building

Members present, Sue Meyer, Mary Thompson, Kathy Taylor, Linda Lind, Barb Hefte, Jennifer Wiste, Vicki Otto, Sarah Goff, Terri Kolar, Charmaine Uphaus, Mike Curse, Janene Hosch, Doug Thompson, Lane Zaffke, Mary Zaffke. Missing. Loretta Knutson and Mike Wiste.

Began meeting talking about the School Garden/ Community Garden grant application. The application will have the addition this year of the option of sending a school staff to the School Garden Event in March. We discussed what a champion is and who one might be. Could be a teacher, or other school staff. The applications will be due November 1<sup>st</sup>. The new requirement will be that reports of how the garden project developed are due before receiving the second half of the grant. Each recipient will be assigned a Master Gardener, who will work with them.

Review of old minutes. The change in the minutes should reflect the correction that Harvey B. was paid. Minutes were amended and approved

Mike brought up that both counties have dollars set aside to get an ag intern. This person could work and support the youth school gardening education. The individual will be a college aged person.

Fair discussion. Clarification regarding who reports the numbers of those who visited our booth. This is something usually Loretta does. Thoughts were that the kids at the fair, loved the sign.

Treasurer's report. We have \$3,100.34 in Checking and \$2,406.81 in Savings.

Discussion of 2019 Spring Garden Day. We need to identifying our speakers now. Kathy T. mentioned that there might be someone from Baileys' who would send out a speaker free or for little cost. March 30<sup>th</sup> is the date, and Kathy will follow up on this for the next meeting. Discussed some hands on ideas such as making seed bombs at this event. Discussion of the panel, gardening over the life span. Linda Lind mentioned a retired staff from the Arboretum, a Mike Hager, who may speak. We talked about a theme and liked, "Gardening, Start to Finish". Some ideas, Gardening from the grocery store, Hands on Seed Starting. We recalled that people were looking for hands on experience. Sara, Janene and Lane will work on developing this idea. It will teach and give a time to demonstrate and do an activity. All members are to be thoughtful about speakers and come to the next meeting with some names and topics for the Spring Education Day.

Mary Thompson talked about the idea of learning tours, like the one held at Linda Linds. There could be 5 learning stations. It could be held in the late afternoon, early evening. Ex. Putting in a rain garden. Members could look at ideas from Hennepin County. It could be at 3-4 places. We wondered if we would get the draw in the fall. We liked a garden tour, and seeing someone's gardens, but fall is not the best time to see the gardens. Other ideas, hypertuffla pots, garden leaves, making seed starting kits, paper pots, seed bombs. After some discussion, Kathy T. brought up the it might work best if we planned something with the other community events, such as Uff Da Fest. The MG's could be present and do something at the local community events. We could plan one or more hands on activities. Ideas

from Janene were growing mushrooms, pruning, grouping plants. Other ideas, how to build a raised bed. Raising herbs in your house. Growing houseplants.

We mentioned that there are 3- 4 people interested in becoming MG this next year. We are to encourage them and have them contact Mike at the office.

We are reminded to enter our hours. The new link was emailed to us from Mike. If you need it again, email Mike at the office. Doug will change the link on the website. There is one site for diagnosis of a disease and the regular log in.

Upcoming events. Plant exchange on Saturday. The Christmas meeting will be at Janene's.

We talked about milkweed. There is some activity of people harvesting the seeds. Thoughts from group0 that milkweed is an annual.

Newspaper articles discussion. There are some issues with this project. Not all members feel that this is their best use of their time. We had planned previous that articles will go in when we want to promote something. When the newspaper has edits, they get back to Extension and sometimes there is little turn around time. Mary T. will have an article about the School Garden Grants.

Janene passed a sedum and discussion of the issue affecting this plant. The group consensus was that it was stem rot. Discussion about the environment this plant lives in, the weather, rainfall, possible exposure to some chemical all entered in the work of the diagnosis.

Mike reminded us about Regional Activities. October 20<sup>th</sup>, in Red Wing there will be a training about Vegetables for All.

Next Meeting, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Mary Zaffke, for Terri Kolar, acting secretary.