

# Houston County Master Gardening November, 2018, Meeting

**Date** 11-13-18

**Present:** Loretta Knutson, Linda Lind, Sue Meyer, Janene Hosch, Sarah Goff, Jean Davy, Mary Thompson, Terri Kolar, Doug Thompson, Anna May, Jennifer Wister, Michael Wiste, Barb Hefte, Char Meiners, Michael Cruse, Extension director.

**Absent:** Brenda Pohlman, Kathleen Taylor, Mary Zaffke, Charmaine Uphaus, Lane Zaffke, and Vicki Otto.

**Welcome.** Meeting called to order at 5:34 by Loretta at the CJB in Caledonia.

**Treasury Report:** none

## **Old Business:**

Approved last month's minutes as written.

## **New Business:**

Mike reviewed with the group the Houston County by-laws he drafted. These were sent out earlier by email and paper copies were available tonight. Mike does not want a vote tonight; he suggested everyone review the by-laws document. A vote will be taken in December and implementation will begin in January. We should not need a monthly meeting. Sub groups that meet can send updates/reports to the main group.

Introduction Rick Bartz from Houston, MN interested in the MG program. All introduced themselves to him.

Mike reviewed the Master Gardener 2018 Annual Report part 1 with the group. After discussion the group agreed the project to highlight in the report as a success story would be Caledonia Children's Funfest "Wheelin through the Garden". Six master gardeners participated in this and over 218 people were reached. Collaboration with local public health, Thrivent and Caledonia Spirit. The Thrivent grant made it possible to purchase 39 bicycle helmets. The program provided helmet safety with any kind of wheels under the feet, herbal infused water was provided for tasting as well as watermelon. Community impact gained community awareness of bike/helmet safety as well as master gardener activities. The MG priority served by this program would be "nearby nature". Janene will provide a picture of the booth set up for the report. Part 1 of the report is due this Friday. Mike will supply a copy of the report for our history book.

Sarah reported on the vegetable gardening regional training that she and Vicki attended. Each county also received one set of signs similar to the pollinator signs. The signs could be used at the fair, trainings and community events. Soil and food safety were emphasized. Overall a very good training.

Mary T signed up for the food safety/preservation course being offered.

Nominations for leadership positions are Mary T for leader, Char for secretary and Jean for treasurer. The vote will be at the December meeting. The historian (Janene) and webmaster (Doug) positions are appointed and they will continue with current persons.

Spring Garden Day- Mary and Doug attended a program at the Owl Center/Nature Center where they got the names of 2 DNR speakers from Rochester. They would be able to speak on rattlesnakes and varmints in the garden, no speaking fees.

Heidi D is unable to commit as it is a busy time of year so she is probably a no.

MG group will be presenting on seed starting and paper pots etc.

Mary T suggested a demo – table for house plant division “potting station” that could be available during breaks. A committee will be needed for planning.

Jake Overgard from Winona was mentioned at the last meeting as a possible speaker. A speaker topic for him could be stone fruit trees. Mike will make the contact to Jake as well as 3-4 other speaker suggestions.

Other topics for sessions could be food preservation or the gardening of vegetables. A speaker from the state on food preservation would cost money but the group agreed we should spend money for good qualified speakers.

Discussed ideas, topics how can we attract youth to the spring garden day. Maybe invite youth 4-H and biology groups, although we know they are all busy with sports!

Spring Grove School was the only application received for a school garden grant. They have an existing garden and are requesting funds for tools, seeds, straw, mulch and soil testing kits. Mary and Lane Z have worked with the Spring Grove School in the past. The group approved the application. Mike will have Mary and Lane Z work with the school. We received no requests for train the trainer’s teachers etc. to attend the school garden conference. The school garden conference does coincide with the Owl festival. Discussion regarding needing to identify persons that are already passionate about gardening.

It was noted that with our group size and the acoustics of the room it is difficult to hear. Mike will check on microphones or speakers.

Discussion on meeting night, traditionally we have met the second Tuesday of the month. Some conflicts with people’s schedules.

**Tasks:**

**Thinking ahead:**

**Sharing Ideas:**

**Volunteer Hours this meeting:** 1.5 hours plus drive time.

**Next Meeting: Date** 12-11-18

**Location** Janene’s home

Potluck, spouses welcome

Minutes by Terri