

Houston County Master Gardeners' Meeting

Date: 1/22/19

Present: Sarah Goff, Sue Meyer, Mary Thompson, Doug Thompson, Charmaine Uphaus, Anna May, Jean Davy, Mary Zaffke, Lane Zaffke, Janene Hosch, Barb Hefte, Char Meiners; Deb Zillmer

Absent: Mike Cruse, Loretta Knutson, Terri Kolar, Linda Lind, Vickie Otto, Brenda Pohlman, Kathy Taylor, Jennifer Wiste, Mike Wiste, Rick Bartz, Bev Nelson

Welcome. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mary Thompson at the Houston County CJC conference room

Mary Thompson reported that Terri Kohler has applied for emeritus status.

On motion the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting were approved.

Jean Davy gave the Treasurer's report. As of December 31, 2018, the balance in checking is \$3,514.50 and the balance in savings is \$2,407.88. Jean reported on options for investing in a CD and what the corresponding interest would be. After discussion, motion was made by Charmaine, seconded by Sue and unanimously carried to invest \$2,000.00 from savings in an eleven month CD and to transfer \$1,500.00 from checking to savings.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed school garden grant for Spring Grove. Mary Zaffke reported that Lane has left messages, but she is not sure if he has heard back. Mary Thompson suggested having the newspaper take a picture of the grant check being given to Spring Grove for a news article. Janene suggested that someone from the Spring Grove School be invited to a Master Gardeners meeting to report on their project.

At this time Mary Thompson introduced Deb Zillmer, who is considering to take the Master Gardener course next year. Introductions were made.

Mary Thompson reported that Nora Beckjord from Spring Grove was a Ramsey Master Gardener and has expressed interest in joining our group. She plans to attend our February meeting.

Mary Zaffke reported that Mike Cruse has been checking into speakers for our March program. Jake Overgaard from the Winona Extension Office is not available that day. However, there was a suggestion to contact Naomi Fruechte to do a food preservation training. Mary Thompson indicated that she will be taking the U of M food preservation workshop this spring. We decided not to hold a course on food preservation at this year's garden day.

Doug Thompson has prepared a preliminary brochure for the March workshop. There will be two speakers from the DNR on rattlesnakes and on garden varmints. Janene, Lane and Mary Z. plan to do a break out session on seeds.

Mary Z. reported that Jean Larson from the U of M is a potential key note speaker who is working on a Master Gardener tool-kit. She would like to be reimbursed for lodging and transportation costs. Further, she would like to meet with approximately 20 people for an hour either before or after the presentation for feedback. It was agreed to meet with her Friday evening after setting up for the workshop. This will count as one hour of education.

Mary Thompson reported that Linda Lind will be doing a break-out session of her observations in a recent trip to Scandinavia. This will be held at the same time as one of the DNR presentations, so people will have to choose which session to attend. Discussion was held on possibly holding Linda's session twice to allow everyone the opportunity to attend it.

It was suggested to ask Sue Haggerty from La Crescent to do a presentation on hostas. It was felt that this would make an excellent key note presentation at the end of the day. Jean will touch base with Sue to find out if she is available.

Jean and Doug are planning a panel about planting for pollinators. Discussion was held on possibly having this as a side activity during breaks.

It was agreed that if Sue Haggerty is not available to do the hosta presentation, Linda Lind and Jean and Doug could hold two sessions of their presentations.

Charmaine, Terri, Barb and Anna will serve on the food committee. They will check with Elsie's. Water pitchers will be provided on the tables. Also, Janene will make flavored water.

Barb has agreed to be a vendor again. Someone will check with Harvey to see if he will also be a vendor. Garden art goes over well, and since we are holding this on a different weekend, it was thought this vendor may be available. It was also suggested that Mac Macomber be invited to sell his salsa, etc.

Kathy Taylor and Jean Davy will be in charge of the silent auction. Jean mentioned that Brenda will bring items for the silent auction again, which is greatly appreciated.

Char, Linda, Sarah and Janene will be in charge of the Country Store.

Doug and Char will work on marketing. Doug is currently working on the brochure and we hope to get that finished as soon as the schedule is finalized. Janene suggested that our upcoming events also be listed in the brochure. Char will work on "save the date" bookmarks to be distributed to libraries, banks, etc. Hopefully Geri Parlin will be doing a news article on our upcoming workshop. Doug has contacted various garden clubs through e-mail. Mary Thompson indicated we should also get our event on the Master Gardeners Listserv. It was also agreed that Doug should "boost" the information on Facebook. He estimated a cost of around \$45.00.

Mary Thompson stated that she would like to set up a potting table. She has an abundance of plants that can be divided. She would provide a tarp, dirt and containers so that during breaks people can help themselves to divisions from her plants. Discussion was held as to whether this is too similar to what Lane, Mary Z and Sarah have planned, although they are focusing on

seeds. After discussion it was agreed to move Lane, Mary Z and Sarah's seed session to the morning. Mary Thompson suggested that the plant dividing table could be set up in another room. However, Charmaine pointed out that if it was not in the lobby, it would probably be overlooked.

Sue, Janene and Jean volunteered to fill the folders.

Discussion was held regarding the School Garden conference which is scheduled for Friday, March 1st at the Minnesota Arboretum. A second session is scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd with the topic "Farm to Table". Mary, Lane, Anna, Janene and Sue expressed an interest in attending. Mary Thompson indicated that they should wait to sign up for the conference until she has endorsed it on behalf of our Master Gardener's group, as this would result in a \$10.00 reduction in the registration fee. Sarah indicated an interest in attending a tree conference at Bethel College and wondered if she could be reimbursed for a portion of the registration. After discussion, motion was made by Char, seconded by Barb and unanimously carried to reimburse one-half of the registration fees and \$30.00 per car for transportation costs.

Discussion was held regarding having educational presentations made at the Master Gardener meetings. Some of the ideas were: pollinators, food preservation, monarchs, Asian Longhorned Tick. Janene, Sarah and Sue volunteered to be on the education committee and it was agreed to hold educational sessions quarterly the first year.

Mary Thompson indicated that the Master Gardeners booth at the Caledonia Fun Fest event has been very successful as outreach to children. She suggested that we make this into our own "took-kit" to be used at area celebrations throughout the county. Janene indicated that she will find out what the theme for this year's Caledonia event will be so that we can begin working on it. Janene, Char, Barb, Jean and Mary T volunteered to be on the committee for the Caledonia Fun Fest.

Doug indicated that in Carver County the Master Gardeners go to the local libraries to answer gardening questions. He suggested that we do something similar in Houston County, perhaps one day per year in each library. Mary Z added that something similar is done at the libraries in Olmsted County along the lines of a seed exchange.

Discussion was held regarding setting up a 2019 calendar. Doug mentioned that a calendar can be set up on our website.

Sue suggested the possibility of holding a plant sale. Janene indicated that she put out a donation box at the plant exchange, but no donations were given. After discussion it was agreed to make the donation box more visible and to give any donations generated to Caledonia Green.

It was agreed that as soon as the speakers for the conference are finalized, Doug will e-mail the brochure to our members for review.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19th. Jean stated that an agenda item should be silent auction donations.

The time being 6:50 p.m. motion was made by Lane, seconded by Sarah and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.