

Houston County Master Gardeners' Meeting

Date: 11/19/2019

Present: Anna May, Bev Nelson, Char Meiners, Doug Thompson, Janene Hosch, Jean Davy, Kathy Taylor, Lane Zaffke, Mary Zaffke, Mary Thompson, Richard Bartz, Vickie Otto, Jean Young, Deb Zillmer, Kris Lee

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mary Thompson at the Houston County Justice Center.

Mary Thompson stated that she would like to add a report from the nominating committee to the agenda.

On motion the minutes of the October 15, 2019 meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was as follows: Checking Account Balance \$1,827.04; Savings Account Balance \$2,616.42; CD \$2,000.00; Total \$6,443.46. On motion the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Mary Thompson reported that no grant applications were received. She suggested that we post a notice on our website that grant funding is available and applications can still be submitted. Discussion was held regarding who is eligible to apply for grants and whether they must be a 501C3. Bev Nelson suggested that landscaping for the Habitat for Humanity project in Spring Grove would be a good project to fund. Discussion was held regarding making the parameters of the grant broader so that more organizations may apply.

Discussion was held regarding the spring workshop. Mary Thompson reported that the Caledonia High School has been reserved for March 21st. Two speakers were approached to make presentations at the workshop, however, both said no. Donahue's Clematis Nursery will be asked. Mary Zaffke indicated that someone from the Northern Lilly Association agreed to speak and would like to be reimbursed for mileage. Jean Young knows someone who is willing to do a breakout session on water features. Linda will be doing one or two presentations on Kokedama, a form of Japanese gardening. There is a cost for this, and we need a Plan B if not enough people sign up to make two sessions necessary.. Kathy Taylor indicated that she can also ask a couple of people to make presentations.

Rick Bartz reported that he is willing to transport the food to the workshop if Robin from the Houston School prepares it. He will request a quote based on 100 meals. Anna Mae will obtain quotes from Elsie's, Red's and Time Out. Last year the cost per meal was \$7.00.

Discussion was held regarding education for the coming year. It was suggested that an educational session be scheduled each quarter and put on the calendar. Mary Thompson has a National Geographic book on gardening which she suggested someone borrow to prepare an educational session. Deb Zillmer volunteered for this project.

The Christmas party will be held at Janene's house, 106 East Adams Street, Caledonia, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on December 17th. A short meeting will be held at 5:00 with a potluck supper to follow. Mary Thompson will present the proposed budget, and officers will be voted on. Janene Hosch reported that

they would like current officers to serve another term, however, Char would like to have someone take over the position of secretary.

Discussion was held regarding 2020 projects. Janene reported that we have been asked to have a booth at the Caledonia Fun Fest on June 20, 2020. This year the same theme was used at Caledonia Fun Fest and at Spring Grove's Uffda Fest. If anyone is willing to host similar sessions for other town celebrations, this would be very much encouraged. Great reviews were received on the flower pounding at Uffda Fest. There was a general consensus from the Master Gardeners that they would be interested in an educational session on this topic.

Mary Thompson reported that she completed information for Mike Cruse's Master Gardener report.

Mary Zaffke reported on the availability of grants through RRSWCD for gardening/nature projects up to \$350.

Marty Zaffke reported that on the State Health Improvement Program where they chose a vegetable of the year to promote. It was felt that this could be a lot of fun and very educational and could include sharing recipes, tastings, etc. Nominations were made for vegetable of the year for 2020: tomatoes, beets, yams/sweet potatoes. The majority voted for beets.

Discussion was held regarding ordering new shirts. There are various options available ranging in price from \$15.00 to \$36.17. On motion it was agreed that the Master Gardeners will fund \$20 per person for shirts, and individuals will pay for the cost over and above this amount. The Master Gardeners will also pay for shipping costs. Everyone should be prepared to place their order at the Christmas Party.

Mary Thompson indicated that the three interns will receive shirts from the University, and she suggested that the Master Gardeners pay for sweatshirts for them, as has been done in the past. On motion this was approved.

Kathy Taylor suggested setting up an informal process for evaluating events in order to make improvements. She also would like to see a timeline developed so we know when various deadlines will be. In addition, she suggested exploring the possibility of remote meetings so people who are unable to be here can attend via the internet. Kathy was asked to begin working on the evaluation process.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. at which time an educational session was held. 1 hour 15 minutes of volunteer time will be given for attendance at this meeting, plus 15 minutes of education time.