

Houston County Master Gardeners' Meeting

Date: 12/17/2019

Present: Anna May, Barb Hefte, Char Meiners, Charmaine Uphaus, Janene Hosch, Jean Davy, Kathy Taylor, Mary Zaffke, Linda Lind, Loretta Knutson, Mary Thompson, Sarah Goff, Deb Zillmer, Kris Lee, Nora Beckjord

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Mary Thompson at Janene Hosch's house.

On motion the minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was as follows: Checking Account Balance \$1,812.04; Savings Account Balance \$2,616.42; CD \$2,000.00; Total \$6,428.46. On motion the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Jean reported that the CD comes due on 12/23/19 and we need to make a decision on whether to renew it. If we do nothing, the rate will be 0.5%. We have the option of either a 17 month or 27 month CD at 1.1%. Char mentioned that Altra Federal Credit Union has a rate of approximately 1.9%. Discussion was also held regarding possibly increasing the amount of the CD. On motion, it was agreed to purchase a \$3,000.00 CD from Altra Federal Credit Union.

Introductions were made, as we have several new members.

Mary Thompson reported that Kelly Petersen would like to know the dates/times of our 2020 meetings so that she can reserve the conference room at the Justice Center. Kelly will be leaving the Extension Office, as she has accepted a position in the Assessor's Office. It was agreed that the meetings in 2020 will be held on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Mary Thompson reported that she spoke with Mike about the possibility of members being able to attend meetings remotely. The technology is available, however, we need a couple of volunteers to learn how to use the equipment. Mary indicated that Doug Thompson would be willing to be one of the volunteers.

On motion, the following officers were elected for 2020: Mary Thompson – President; Mary Zaffke – Vice-President; Jean Davy – Treasurer; Nora Beckjord – Secretary.

An order form for U of M Extension shirts was passed around. The Master Gardeners will fund \$20.00 per person and each individual will pay for the cost over and above this amount. If 24 pieces are ordered, we will receive 20% off and it was agreed that, rather than refund this amount, it will be used toward shipping costs.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed policy for gardening grants. Discussion was held. It was agreed that this will be revised to include where applications can be submitted electronically. On motion, it was agreed that a committee consisting of the officers and Mike Cruse will have the authority to approve grant applications.

Kathy Taylor brought up the issue of reviewing events in order to improve the process. It was pointed out that this is already being done.

Discussion was held regarding the garden day event. Mary Zaffke reported that she has arranged for a speaker on daylilies. Linda has arranged for a speaker on clematis. Deb will do a breakout session on health issues related to gardening based on things she saw in the clinic setting. Linda will also do

a breakout session on kokedama, and there will be an additional fee to cover the cost of supplies for this session. Nora's husband will do a breakout session on water gardens. There will also be a breakout trivia game. We still need one additional breakout session and flower pounding was suggested.

Chris Lee offered to provide lodging for any of the speakers.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of selling jams and jellies at the garden day event, however, we would be required to purchase these upfront and could lose money if we do not sell them.

Mary Thompson presented a proposed budget for 2020. On motion, the budget was approved as presented.

Anna May reported on the quotes for the meal. A decision should be made next month.

Mary Thompson stated that Cindy Frank would like to know if the name of the event will be the same as last year. After discussion, it was agreed to continue with the name "Thyme to Garden".

Brief discussion was held regarding the vegetable of the year project.

Jean reported on possibilities for education. One suggestion was a field trip to Olbrich Gardens and the Arboretum in Madison. Other ideas included a grafting session sponsored by Hidden Springs and education on jumping worms. Deb will be doing a session on the National Geographic gardening book Mary Thompson brought to the last meeting. Additional ideas should be given to Jean.

Mary Thompson reported on the pollinator grants available from BWSR.

The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. 1 hour 15 minutes of volunteer time will be given for attendance at this meeting.