**Benton County Master Gardener Association**

**Board Meeting**

**July 6, 2015**

**In Attendance:**  Kathy Clark, Steve Jacobs, Jennifer Klammer, Paula Lupcho, Janet Magedanz, Ruby Moon, Pami Opfer, Sandy Piper, Jana Tindall, and Debbie Wray

**Location:** Benton County Extension Offices

President Kathy Clark called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Gardening Moment:** Janet Magedanz talked about the hyper tufa class she will be conducting at her home August 21st. She briefly explained the history of hyper tufa and brought an example of one she had made. The class will last about two hours, will include what to plant, and will be open to 10-12 people. Information about signing up will be distributed later.

**Adoption of Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the May minutes as amended.**

**Outreach Committee:** Ruby Moon brought to the board a proposed project from the Outreach Committee for the development of Community Posting Boards. The boards would be both the Master Gardener Association and up to three additional organizations. They would provide a place to “post” information about gardens and gardening activities which addresses the Master Gardener mission. The board requested the committee to submit a written proposal with specific details explaining management and coordination among the organizations, estimating cost, and identifying places to locate the posting boards.

**Membership Committee:** Debbie Wray brought a draft of the Associate Member Application for the board to review. The board requested two changes:

1. Only *trained* Associate Members can vote or provide advice to clients.
2. The membership application will be reviewed by a *Membership Chair.*

The board also requested that behavioral standards identified in the Master Gardener Policies and Procedures be associated with being an Associate Member. Another sheet explaining these standards will be attached to the application for signature. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to have the fee for becoming an Associate Master Gardener set at $10.**

**Marie Madison Scholarship:** The board authorized the following changes to the application for the Marie Madison Scholarship application:

* Eligibility: The applicant has demonstrated interest and involvement in activities *that promote sustainable gardening through community service and/or public education.*
* Application: The applicant shall provide *a written statement describing the applicant’s involvement in an academic project or community activity demonstrating the applicant’s interest in the fields of horticulture, botany, and/or plant science.*
* Instead of requiring an official college transcript, the applicant can provide *a copy of college transcripts, including winter terms grades* and must sign the following declaration: *I certify that all of the information furnished on this form and submitted to the committee is true and complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that such information is confidential and subject to verification by the Marie Madison Scholarship Committee.*
* The requirement for two letters of recommendation is changed to read *one letter of recommendation which is from an instructor of a horticulture or plant science course the applicant has attended or from a supervisor if the work is in the field of plant science or horticulture.*

**It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the changes for the application to the Marie Madison Scholarship as submitted by the scholarship committee.**

**County Fair 4-H Prizes:** Jennifer Klammer has met with Nellie Oehler who is requesting $320 to purchase prizes for young 4-H gardeners who submit items to the Benton County Fair. They would be for 12 categories plus 4 Best-in-Show. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to allocate $320 for 4-H prizes out of contingency funds.** The board also suggested that this expenditure needs to be included in the budget in the future and that providing such prizes needs to have some structural oversight.

**Summer Fun Activities** being planned include:

* Thursday night at the Knights’ game
* Hyper tufa at Janet Magedanz’ home August 21st
* Cooking, organized by Susan Hoffman—details to follow
* Picnic at the Fairgrounds with a Bocca tournament—details to follow

**Special Allocations:** The board discussed four special allocations requests submitted by Steve Naberhuis. All four will be given to the Special Allocations Committee for consideration where members can recommend the allocations as submitted or with their suggested modifications.

1. $3,000 to support the Oregon State Master Gardener Endowment Program for Master Gardeners
2. $1,000 to the Benton County Fairgrounds
3. $750 to the Benton County Public Library Foundation
4. $500 to the Linn-Benton Community College Foundation

**Service District for Extension:** Kathy Clark reported that the Benton County Commissioners are in the exploratory phase of considering a service district for funding the Extension Service.

**Mini College Scholarships:** Kathy Clark reported that Sue Pisias and Pam Wilson, two of this year’s recipients of Mini College scholarships, will not be attending. Only one alternate was named, thus one scholarship will not be utilized. Kathy suggested that in the future two alternates be named.

**OMGA:** Janna Tindall reported that the Oregon Master Gardener Association meeting held in Benton County went smoothly. The only issue centered around the Article of Dissolution and how to handle any remaining funds. The OMGA is asking for greater flexibility, should this possibility arise. **It was moved, seconded, and passed that Benton County is in favor of greater flexibility in the OMGA regarding dissolution but there need to be restrictions regarding where the money goes (horticulture and/or sustainable gardening).** Paula Lupcho noted that several years ago the Benton County Master Gardener Association changed its language to state that such funds *may* go to the OMGA, thus giving BCMGA the flexibility to give such funds to the OSU Foundation or any other non-profit organization.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Paula Lupcho distributed the treasurer’s monthly summaries and noted that we are eight months into our Master Gardener program year and the association’s financial situation is very strong.

* The current bank balance is $57,576.72. Of those funds, $38,298.20 is available for BCMGA use.
* The association’s renters and liability insurance has been paid for the year (July 2015 to July 2016). Renter’s insurance covers equipment and items located at 4077 SW Research Way. It does not cover any items at other locations. The liability insurance covers members and the public at sanctioned MG events. This will also include associate support members under the supervision of the association.

**Extension Report:** Pami Opfer reported:

* The Alsea Food Bank will be submitting a request to Special Allocations.
* The Hispanic Advisory Committee will be conducting a needs-assessment survey.
* The coordinators of the farmer’s markets are in conversation regarding how to support clients more and drawing families in, e.g., providing additional programming, making booths more interactive.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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Sandy Piper

Secretary