**Benton County Master Gardener Association**

**Board Meeting**

**December 7, 2015**

**In Attendance:**  Hank Beuttel, Kathy Clark, Sally Elliot, Susan Hoffman, Steve Jacobs, Judith Kenner, Deb Kern, Jennifer Klammer, Paula Lupcho, Sandy Piper, Sheila Schweizer, Richard Taylor, Jana Tindall, Connie Treloar, Dee Wallace, Peggy Worthington, and Debbie Wray

**Location:** Benton County Extension Offices

President Kathy Clark called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

**Adoption of Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the November 2, 2015 minutes as amended.**

**Lifetime Member Policy:** The board discussed the revisions to the Lifetime Member Policy that were approved at the November meeting plus the notation that no dues are paid by the lifetime members. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the Lifetime Member Policy as amended.** (See attachment.)

**Oregon Master Gardener Association:** Jana Tindall highlighted the following issues from the last Oregon Master Gardener Association meeting:

* The position for the Second Vice-President is still vacant.
* They still need a head for the Search for Excellence Committee.
* They need volunteers for the Mini College to be held August 4-6, 2016.
* They need volunteers for the International Master Gardener Conference to be held in Portland in 2017.

Jana also reported that the OMGA overspend its 2015 budget by $2,500 and budgeted for a 2016 deficit. Board members expressed concern for the overspending because of the possible impact on the BCMGA since the OMGA is the organization over the county Master Gardener Associations. Jana will ask for information regarding why it was done and what the plans are to make up the deficit and then report back to the board meeting when she has the information.

**Greens Party:** Jana Tindall expressed what a success the Greens Party was. About 30 people made beautiful holiday wreaths, swags, and centerpieces from greens and materials donated by quite a few people.

**Monthly Financial Report:** Paula Lupcho reported that:

* OMGA membership dues should be paid by December 30th. 54% of 2015 members have paid to date.
* The rider for insurance coverage for the shed is complete. It cost $22.88 for $6,000 additional coverage.
* Special Allocations are now all paid.
* The Benton County Master Gardener Association is ending 2015 in a strong financial position.

**Committee Reports:** Kathy Clark noted that there are now 17 committee reports posted on the web which is a terrific improvement from previous years. She applauded the work of the board liaisons to committee chairs for encouraging these reports and pointed out how important they are given they are the BCMGA’s only record of what has been done. She also indicated that Rich Little is still working with bees but is designated as a resource.

**Service District:** Kathy Clark will continue to work with Extension personnel to promote educating voters regarding the establishment of a Service District for funding Extension. 22 or Oregon’s 36 counties already have such districts. They are trying to have the May ballot include the establishment of one in Benton County

**Marie Madison Scholarship:** Christina Clark will join Jeanette Fair, Drea Zigler, and Sandy Piper on the Scholarship Committee. It is hopeful that the changes made last year in the application process will encourage more students to apply.

**Membership Proposal:** Debbie Wray distributed a survey tool the Membership Committee would like encourage all BCMGA members to complete in an effort to better link the association’s activities and needs with members’ skills and interests. The survey could be filled out either on line or on paper. Jan Konzak has agreed to be a Volunteer Coordinator and maintain the data base. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to allow the Membership Committee to proceed with this project.**

**2016 Budget:** Paula Lupcho distributed series of tables graphically illustrating several years’ history of the BMCA’s budget plus a written explanation of each table. (See attachments.) The budget committee of Jennifer Klammer, Janet Magedanz, and Kathy Clark plus Paula who also attended all met to recommend a 2016 budget. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the proposed 2016 budget as proposed, eliminating $150 for Spineless Wonders.**

**Committee Reports:**

* **Demo Garden:** Jana Tindall reported that the window in the shed was shot out creating a need for a volunteer to cover it for now. The Demo Garden Committee will look at the 2016 budget to consider a more permanent solution.
* **Outreach Committee:** Jana Tindall said that the Outreach Committee is doing a great job and is now establishing subcommittees in order to address expanding ideas and projects.
* **Plant Sale:** Kathy Clark reported that the fall Dig-and-Divides yielded about 5,000 potted plants. Because the weather was so good in October, they scheduled more Dig-and-Divide dates than they have in the past.
* **Get Outdoors Day:** Connie Treloar reported that Kathi Tucker is stepping down from heading this activity so a successor needs to be found.
* **Desk Committee:** Hank Beuttel reported that Kathi Tucker will continue as chair of the Desk Committee.
* **School Garden:** Nellie Oehler will continue to chair the Adams School Garden.
* Janet Throop will continue to be the BCMGA liaison to the **Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.**

**Extension Report:** Kathy Clark reported for Brooke Edmunds and Pami Opfer:

* Note the new and fewer categories for reporting volunteer hours.
* There 25 new trainees for 2016. The sessions will be held on Thursdays.
* They have distributed a survey to the 2015 trainees to identify ways in which their training has impacted them.
* The Plant Problem Scenarios will be held before lunch.

**Good of the Association:**

* Debbie Wray expressed gratitude for the support she and Pat received to attend the International Conference.
* It’s noted that the 2016 Insights into Gardening is scheduled for the same weekend as the Portland Garden Show.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

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Sandy Piper

Secretary