**April 4, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Opening**

The regular board meeting of the Linn County Master Gardeners was called to order at 1:10 P.M.

**Present**

Ranee Webb- President, Susan Morton- 1st Vice President, Betty Goerge**n** -2nd Vice President, Ann Capps -Secretary, Connie Lepin -Treasurer, Nona Burkhart -Member at Large, Larry Steele- Member at Large, Pam Nelson -Member at Large, Kathy Powell -Member at Large, Pami Opfer -Extension Staff, Dave Krieger- Demo Garden Coordinator, Randy Peckham -Historian.

**Approval of minutes**

March minutes were approved as circulated.

**Treasurers Report**

There was a review of the Beevent expenses and income. OMGA dues include 74 members and 11 trainees.

Balance as of 3-31-2017 was $16943.35 with $2215.76 due for book order.

**Extension Report**

Pami asked for nominees for Master Gardener of the Year to be sent to her soon. Seed to Supper classes have been well attended. A total of 65 people have attended (including all the locations). It was noted that at least half of the attendees are low income. Pami and Brooke are going to apply for an educator grant to buy a computer for the electrical facility where the Master Gardener trainee classes are held. It will be a way of saying thank you to them for the use of their facility. Farmers markets start May 6. Pami would like to use a web site called signupgenius.com for volunteers to sign up for volunteer hours at the farmers market, Mother Earth, demo garden, extension desk, and garden tour. She will let the committee chair people know when this is available. Pami is considering offering mobile plant clinics, if trainees are in need of hours, possibly at Wilco, Tom's and Green Thumb.

Please find attached the summer workshops being offered through the extension office.

**Bee Supplies**

Rich Little requested $1300 to place a bulk order for tubes and liners. This would give us a 3 - 5 year supply. This request was approved by the Board.

Benton County Soil and Water District is ordering a book about bees of the Willamette Valley. By combining our order with them the cost would be $1.02 a piece. Ordering 500 would cost $510. These booklets would be included in the packets at next year's Beevent as well as sold when opportunities were available. Purchasing the booklet was approved by the Board.

It was asked if the pollinator project would reach a saturation point. Through discussion it was agreed it does not seem so. By changing up the Beevent each year with new and interesting speakers and including other pollinators the interest should continue.

**Brown Bags Talks**

Lebanon will start their Brown Bag Talks on April 6.

The theme for the fall talks beginning in October will the "Putting your garden to bed".

**Tom's Container Planting Day**

Nona is handling this event. The date is May 6. She already has volunteers.

There will not be a Wilco planting day this year.

**Spring Garden Festival**

Susan Morton is handling this event. The date is May 7, 9-4, in Corvallis. She has volunteers for this event.

**Garden Tour**

The date for this event is June 17. Betty has purchased 50 signs and stakes at a cost of $225.00. She will ask for volunteers to put these sign up around town and where ever appropriate. There will be 6 gardens to tour. The Demo Garden will not be included this year but it will be advertised on the handouts to promote activities being planned there. Posters will be made as well as book marks.

**Demo Garden**

Dave has an area cleared for the shed extension. There is lots of weeding going on. Larry harvested 25 gallons or worm castings. We will be having our monthly demo garden meeting on April 7 to discuss the classes that will be offered there this year.

**Farmers Market**

Pam Nelson is handling the farmers markets sign ups. The dates for the farmers market are May 6 through October 21. We will need volunteers for the POP table on July 8 and August 26. They would like us to provide an activity for the kids on these two dates.

**Membership Retention**

There have been approximately 80 members for the last few years. This year we are up to around 87.

Pami will send clarification of volunteer hour categories as it still seems there is some confusion about this.

**Membership Meeting**

Susan Morton is handling these. There will not be a meeting in April. On May 17 from 10 -12 the members will take a trip to Shriners Irises. People can meet at the demo garden and car pool. In June Susan is planning a trip to Polk County to tour the demo garden in Independence. She is in the process of contacting them to set a date.

**On Going Business**

Donation form and brochure - Randy has a rough draft ready.

**REMINDER - BOARD MEETING CHANGES FOR 2017**

**MAY BOARD MEETING - THURSDAY, MAY 4TH**

**JULY BOARD MEETING - THURSDAY, JULY 6TH**

Meeting adjourned at 2:34.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Capps, Secretary