



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
December 13, 2006**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Mary Beth McCaughey, Sallie Bourgeois, Peg d'Hemecourt, Nat Gruesen (via telephone), James Buckley, Barbara McCormick, Marilyn Almon, Lynn McKillop

Board Members Absent: Barbara Brannon, Carolyn McDaniel

Cooperative Extension Staff Present:
CEA-Horticulture- Mark Countryman

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Mary Beth McCaughey called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

Approval of Minutes – After a motion by Sallie Bourgeois and a second by Peg d'Hemecourt, the minutes of the November 8, 2006 Board Meeting were approved as amended.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth introduced and welcomed the new Horticulture Agent, Mark Countryman, as an advisor to the Board.
- Mary Beth thanked Sallie Bourgeois and Carolyn McDaniel and the rest of the Board Members for working on the Awards Banquet. It was a very successful event.
- Mary Beth called for a formal vote by the Board to increase the volunteer hours.
- Brenda Dresner made a motion to increase the volunteer hours for recertification for Master Gardeners from 12 to 24. Eight of these hours would be divided up between the hotline and the demonstration gardens or a combination of both the hotline and the gardens. This change would go into effect on December 1, 2006. Sallie Bourgeois seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Vice President - Peg d'Hemecourt

- Regarding the 2006 election of officers, Peg suggested that information about the candidates should have been made available to the full membership prior to the election. She also voiced concern that a vote by acclamation was not in keeping with the election process required in the Bylaws.
- Peg also stated that the Board should have communicated better with the membership concerning the change in volunteer service hours required for recertification. She felt that it deserved a headline in The Grapevine and a positive message explaining this fundamental change in membership requirements in support of FBMG's mission.

Secretary – Barbara McCormick

- Barbara reported that the corrections to the November 8, 2006 will be made prior to submitting them to the Web site.

Treasurer – Marilyn Almon

- Marilyn indicated that people are not spending their entire budget.
- Marilyn requested all unreimbursed expenses be submitted so that the books can be closed and presented to the new treasurer without any outstanding expenses.
- The November treasurer's report as submitted by Marilyn Almon is attached to the meeting minutes.
- The check register balance is \$51,850.84. The balance only reflects expenditures through the end of November.

Awards – Carolyn McDaniel

- Carolyn McDaniel was not present.
- The deadline for submitting all categories of Awards to the TMGA is January 22, 2007. Awards turned in after that date will not be accepted.

Communications - Lynn McKillop

- Lynn did not have a report.
- Lynn requested finding someone to take over the Web site.
- The deadline for submitting articles to the Grapevine is December 20, 2006.
- Since the Grapevine is a communication tool it was suggested that an element of education be incorporated into some of the articles submitted for publication.
- Another suggestion for the newsletter was that perhaps it could be made available to the public.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- The following is a list of speakers scheduled for the 2006-2007 monthly programs:

January 25, 2007 - "FRUIT TREES AND THEIR CARE" - Dr. Robert Randall - Urban Harvest. The program will be held from 7-9 p.m.

February 22, 2007 - "WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS" - David Lobpries - Texas Parks and Wildlife.

- Brenda would like to have some publicity promoting Dr. Randall's presentation on FRUIT TREES AND THEIR CARE for the upcoming fruit tree sale in February.
- Beginning in March the monthly program will be held on the third Thursday of the month.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.
- The fruit tree sale and the perennial sale are the next two fundraising events to be held in February and March respectively.
- Cheryl Huber will not be able to chair the plant sales this year.
- It was suggested that there be plant sale co-chairs.

Greenhouse – Glenn Dresner and James Buckley, co-chairs

- Glenn reported that the greenhouse needs a roof on it before the shade cloth can be replaced.
- The greenhouse can use the existing shade cloth. During the winter the shade cloth can be removed from the roof.
- All the piping necessary for water has been completed. Electrical operating procedures for the greenhouse need to be put in place.
- A program to train people on how to use the greenhouse will begin shortly.

Landscape – Nat Gruesen

- The committee chairs are working on their budget.
- The landscape budgets should be completed by the first week in January.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie reported the results of the elections for the Master Gardener Board of Directors. They are as follows:

President - Mary Beth McCaughey

Vice-President - Peg d'Hemecourt

Secretary - Marilyn Almon

Treasurer - Mike Greenwood

- Sallie attended the TMGA Director's Meeting on December 2, 2006
- The Minutes from the December 2 Director's meeting are on the TMGA Web site. **http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/** The password is: **sunset**
- Membership forms for 2007 will be mailed soon.

Cooperative Extension Advisor Reports:

CEA-Horticulture – Mark Countryman

- The Board welcomed Mark Countryman as the new Extension Horticulture Agent
- He is very enthusiastic about working with the Fort Bend County Extension Service.

MG Coordinator – Margo McDowell

- Margo was not present.
- Mary Beth reported that the next Master Gardener training class will begin on February 14, 2007.
- We should actively begin publicizing this class so that we can increase enrollment.

Standing Committee Reports:

- The Governance Committee will meet in January 2007

Old Business:

- The committee formed to promote FBMG "Open Garden Days" will begin discussing ways of inviting the public to our Demonstration Gardens.
- Brenda and Glenn Dresner along with Ginny Grant and Margo McDowell met on December 12 to discuss concepts defining a new Director position for youth directed activities.
- Mary Beth passed out a draft verbiage for Youth Activities Committee and changes to the duties of the Community Relations Committee.
- A vote on these changes was not taken at this time. There will be more discussion on this topic at the next Board Meeting.
- There will be a Budget Meeting on January 3, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and evaluate a new budget for 2007.
- Volunteer Hours required for recertification. A formal vote was taken. Refer to item 4 under the President's report.

New Business:

- Update on research into adding an outdoor learning center structure to the grounds.
- On the afternoon of December 13, according to Mary Beth, several Master Gardeners will meet at The Church at Bethel's Family to view a gazebo structure manufactured by HomePlace Structures, a company we've been researching as a source for a gazebo-like outdoor meeting structure for our grounds.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 9:00 am.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara McCormick
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.

Amended by Marilyn Almon on January 10, 2007