



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
March 11, 2008**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: James Buckley, Ginny Grant via phone, Mike Greenwood, Nat Gruesen, Mary Beth McCaughey, Barbara McCormick, and Marilyn Almon.

Board Members Absent: Sallie Bourgeois, Barbara Brannon, Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Robert Goehring, and Carolyn McDaniel.

AgriLife Extension Staff Present:

CEA - Horticulture – Mark Countryman

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Nat Gruesen called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Nat and a second by Mary Beth, the amended minutes of the February 12, 2008, Board meeting were approved by all. The first amendment corrected Mark's title in the minutes to read CEA-Horticulture. The second amendment corrected the Youth Activities section to reflect that the \$1,000 educational grant provided by FBCMG will be designated for JMG use in developing the academy as opposed to being used for tuition expense for two master gardeners.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Nat Gruesen

- Nat thanked volunteers for working at the Perennial Sale on March 8th.

Vice President – Barbara McCormick

- Barbara stated that the Hotline Committee was very active at the Perennial Sale, distributing numerous gardening information handouts.

Secretary – Marilyn Almon

- No report.

Treasurer – Mike Greenwood

- Mike commented that final numbers will be available for the Fruit Tree Sale after all of the relevant check requests have been submitted.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth reported that advertising through the FBCMG website and local newspapers, as well as radio mention by Randy Lemmon, was highly effective for both sales.

Awards – Carolyn McDaniel

- Carolyn was not present.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Robert was not present.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda was not present.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.

Greenhouse – James Buckley and Glenn Dresner, co-chairs

- No report.

Landscape – Open position

- Nat announced that the bridge over the Water Garden was removed for safety reasons.
- Dell Keene continues to research plant materials for the Trees Across the Grounds project. Bill Young is drawing a preliminary plan. Mark commented that he has design software containing plant material that is available for use.
- The Japanese Garden still needs a chairperson and Mary Beth will publicize the vacancy in the next Grapevine.
- Nat would really like to have a designated hospitality committee active on workdays. Margo has talked to two members about assuming the task.
- Nat stated that a historian is needed for the gardens as well as for awards. The position would be specified in the Awards directorate.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie was not present.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny's report is attached to the minutes.
- Regarding the Calvary Episcopal School garden activity on March 15th, participating master gardeners will receive volunteer hours, but not gardening hours.
- Ginny will need 20 master gardener volunteers for 4-H Day Camp on July 16th.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- No activity.

AgriLife Extension Advisor Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Mark Countryman

- Mark is organizing a small group tour of the hydroponics greenhouse facility which grows garlic and is located on Highway 36 across from Lowe's.
- Introduction to Organics will be presented on April 1st in the Bud O'Shieles community center.

- LIMS is scheduled to be held on May 10th and 17th, concentrating on measuring and scaling techniques, with Mark offering a one on one follow-up after course completion.
- The Pecan Committee may be interested in planting citrus trees in the Citrus Area of the demonstration gardens, but will have to be responsible for maintaining the area.

Master Volunteer Coordinator – Margo McDowell

- Margo stated that she is receiving phone calls about the next master gardener class and is planning the Fall 2008 daytime course, scheduled to begin on August 13th.
- Plans are still active to implement the mentoring project.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

A motion to adjourn was made by Nat, seconded by Barbara, and approved unanimously at 7:30 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Almon
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
4/5/2008

JMG ACTIVITIES – March 11, 2008
Ginny Grant

JMG Activity – Family Night at Chick-Fil-A, Missouri City – March 13, 2008
Program will include 2 JMG activities and stories from “Literature in the Garden” series.

Garden Activity – Calvary Episcopal School, Richmond - March 15, 2008
Students and parents will start planting a butterfly garden. I have been invited to join them. 1st grade teachers have requested an educational program about butterflies in April.

JMG Activity – Fort Bend Museum Children’s Day, Richmond – March 29, 2008
Children will create starter pots from newspaper and plant seeds; Educational Director estimates 300 children will attend.

H₂O Expo – City of Sugar Land, Town Center – April 18, 2008
Educational program with a water related activity is planned.

JMG Activity – Enchanted Garden Nursery, Richmond – May 3, 2008
Enchanted Garden is presenting a “Master Gardener” morning; part of the morning will include gardening with children and a JMG activity.

4-H Day Camp – Fairgrounds, Rosenberg – July 16, 2008
Monthly planning meetings begin April 28th.