



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
January 12, 2010**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Jodie Douglass, Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon, Nat Gruesen, Gwen Heck

Board Members Absent: Barbara Brannon

AgriLife Extension Advisor Present:

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

AgriLife Extension Advisor Present:

CEA - Horticulture – Shari Koch

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Jane Gray called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

Executive Committee Appointment of Board Directors-A motion was made by Gwen Heck, seconded by Glenn Dressner to approved the appointment of the 2010 director positions as follows:

- Awards-Jodie Douglas
- Communications-Robert Goehring
- Community relations-Brenda Dresner
- Fund Raising-Barbara Brannon
- Landscape-Open
- Member Relations-Marilyn Almon
- Youth Activities-Ginny Grant

Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Brenda Dresner and a second by Glenn Dresner, the minutes of the November 10, 2009 board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- No report

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- Working on unfinished action items list for the board members use.

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- No report.

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Report attached to the minutes.
- Peg has changed some accounts to their own category.

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- No written report.
- Welcomed Gwen Heck to the board and Jane Gray to her new position.
- Question was brought up by Glenn whether sales tax is due regarding the sale of the windmill, which was recently sold. Nat and Peg both agreed to look into this, as it is not really clear.

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Report attached to the minutes.
- Jodie will send a questionnaire out to the master gardeners in March regarding the continued use of award patches.
- Margo brought up a suggestion of having a plaque in the office with the names of those awarded Master Gardener of the Year. It would be retroactive to include all past recipients. The discussion was in favor and Brenda will check into this.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Report attached to the minutes.
- Deadline for submissions to the next Grapevine is January 26th.
- New password will be announced after the master gardener roster is updated.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Speaker for January will be Tom LeRoy-Preparing for Citrus, Nut and Fruit Season
- Speaker for February will be Justin Mechell-Rain Gardens
- Presently working on speakers for next few months.
- Will be attending meeting on Thursday regarding help with planting Landscaping Signs in City of Rosenberg
- Brought up discussion on whether we could put flyers at the help desk during the fruit tree sale explaining the census. After discussion, it was agreed not to do this.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- No written report.
- Margo reported for Barbara.
- Now have a preliminary list of plants for the sale. Will have same amount of bareroot plants as last year.

- Both plant sales location will be changed to the K.C. Hall this year. We were running out of space at the fairgrounds.
- Cost will be \$1200 and an additional \$400/day plus utilities.
- Margo drew a diagram of the layout for everyone to see.
- (Addendum) E-mail by Jane Gray and Barbara Brannon received on January 14th, states that after more careful measurements and considerations, it was decided that the sales will continue to be at the fairground.

Landscape –open

- Jane and Shari will be handling this until someone takes over.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- At present, we have 128 members paid up-75%. Retention of 84%
- Our category-Medium group
- Thank you was sent from South Texas Children's Home

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Report attached to minutes

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- No report

Extension Service Advisor Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch

- Vegetable conference is coming up on February 2nd. There will be vendor space available, if the master gardeners are interested. Cost is a \$50 door prize.
- Brenda has agreed to take charge of this.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Nursery Floral License is due on February 10th.
- We did not receive enough applicants for the evening class. This class will be rescheduled for 2011. Will still have a fall class in 2010.
- Glenn brought up that after lending our wagons out to Urban Harvest, which is good public relations, some have returned damaged. It was agreed after discussion that next year we would ask upfront to be reimbursed for the cost of any repairs due to damage.

Other:

Old Business:

Proposal for Partnership with the City of Sugarland Municipal Court

- To be signed

Chartering

- Shari reports that it is ready to be signed and turned in an end of the month

Insurance Policy

- Peg furnished a breakdown of three options for the liability coverage. One option covered general liability coverage, directors and officers liability coverage, and some medical coverage for accidents on premises. The second option included bonding coverage which covers financial abuse within our organization and theft of funds. The third option is a business property coverage.
- A motion to buy only the general liability coverage, directors and officers liability coverage, and some medical coverage for accidents on premises was made by Peg, seconded by Nat, and approved by all.
- Addendum-Insurance with R.V. Nuccio & Associates Insurance, Inc. will be in effect by February 1st. Payment sent on January 21st.

Perimeter fencing

- It was agreed to hold off on discussion of fencing due to the board not ready to commit to taking the offer of the free building. It was felt that the placement of the building was unsure and would possibly cause changes to be made to the placement of the fence.

New Business:

2010 Budget

- Nat Gruesen presented the 2010 budget that was worked up after the budget meeting on December 7th.
- After discussion, a motion was made by Jodie to accept the 2010 budget with the changes made tonight. It was seconded by Nat and approved by all.

EMS Building

- Glenn brought up that the building may fit in front of the greenhouse, between the greenhouse and the rose garden. This location may decrease installation cost.
- The estimate is \$4200.00 to move the building.
- It was brought up by Shari that the county would own the building, when installed. She thinks the county would pay for the monthly utility bills.
- Shari brings up the approval needed by the Building and Space Committee Board. She would write up the proposal, when needed.
- Glenn advised that we get more estimates before a decision is made. We need estimates on sewage, plumbing and electricity.
- After discussion by the board, Nat made a motion that we table further discussion regarding the EMS building until we get all bids. Motion seconded by Brenda and approved by all.
- (Addendum) On January 15th an e-vote was taken by the executive board regarding the EMS building. Decision was not to take possession of the building- too expensive.

Jane Gray adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Heck
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Submitted 01/26/2010
Corrected 02/03/2010

Awards Chairman Report ---

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER . December 9, 2009

The theme was “The Fruits of Our Labor” celebrating the achievements of our Association for the past year. A combined effort from many to document our achievements & activities with pictures made our program more meaningful and enlightening.

In attendance were 114 total with more guests than ever before. (Attending the 2008 dinner was 73 MG’s with 11 guests, totaling 90.)

Comments from our guests were in unison that they were not aware of all the activities where Master Gardeners were involved. Our efforts to celebrate our achievements as a group were successful. Many noted that they were tired of all the roll-calls with individual hours and enjoyed this type of a celebration much better. Hour patches, 100-hour award shirt cards were given to Master Gardeners in envelopes when they arrived. Individual year pins were awarded during the evening as well as our Master Gardener of the Year.

In March a committee will be organized to review the overall awards program. It has been noted that the Awards Shirt and the hour patches aren’t being displayed as originally intended. A questionnaire will be compiled, sent to the membership and their input will be requested and evaluated for future meaningful recognitions.

STATE AWARDS APPLICATIONS

Submission Due Date: January 11th, 2010

Five State Awards Applications have been sent in for consideration this year. I truly believe we have great potential for winning awards for all of them. The applications from all the counties competing are sent to three out-of-state judges and we won’t find out the results until the State Conference held in Dallas in April.

Jodie Douglass
Awards Chairman

**Communications Report
January 2010
Submitted by Robert Goehring, Communications Director**

The following information is humbly provided.

The Grapevine

December / January issue – As of 5 January, issue is in editing.

Website

Visitor count for 2009 – 123,623

Blog

Current **Administrator**: Barbara
Visitor count for 2009 – 22,062.

Mailing Lists

Entomology. Leslie Niemand is our Administrator.
Gardens. No administrator yet.
Public List. No administrator yet.

Publicity

Nothing to report.

Goals for 2010:

- Continue reviewing the website for correctness and content.
- Encourage other Chairs to submit planned events early in order to fully utilize the website Calendar function.
- Publicize the website and blog electronically (i.e., raise search site ratings).
- Encourage use of Mailing Lists and find motivated Administrators.

**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Youth Activities
January 9, 2010
Ginny Grant**

JMG Meeting – Briargate Elementary, FBISD – Extended Day Program
Ongoing JMG activities

JMG Meeting – Schiff Elementary, FBISD – ongoing meetings
Working with garden coordinator to install habitat garden

Earth-Kind® Kids Kamp has been scheduled for June 14th – 18th.