



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
July 7, 2009**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Nat Gruesen, James Buckley, Glenn Dresner, Brenda Dresner, Peg Turrentine, Marilyn Almon and Susan Peacock.

Board Members Absent: Jodie Douglass, Cindy Fairbanks, Robert Goehring, Mary Beth McCaughey, Ginny Grant and 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 – Nat Gruesen called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Marilyn Almon and a second by Brenda Dresner, the minutes of the May 12, 2009 Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Nat Gruesen

- Nat spoke briefly about the tour given June 30th for Fort Bend county elected officials. He stated that the event was a success and there was a good meal as well.

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- No report.

•

Secretary – Susan Peacock

- No report.

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Peg's report is attached to the minutes.
- Peg mentioned that the budget for the year for Irrigation was \$500.00 and this has been used. Also, the Native Garden budget is starting to top out

whereas monies in some areas are not being spent. Nat proposed that Jane talk to Jim and get an estimate for what irrigation expenses will be based on his assessment.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth was not present.

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Jodie's report is attached; Jodie was not present.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- No report; Robert was not present.
- Margo commented that the FBMG calendar has been updated.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda distributed the *Upcoming Events* sheet and reviewed the items listed.
- Steven Chamblee will be presenting at the August 20th meeting and his program will be about 1.5 hours. He will need lodging for the night he is in town.
- Brenda mentioned changing the Work Day in September from the 5th to the 12th because of the Labor Day holiday.
- Mary Suarez on the Hospitality Committee has resigned and help is needed in setting up for the monthly programs. One or two new graduates have expressed an interest in helping and Marilyn will get their names. Margo mentioned that attendance at the monthly meetings decreased after changes were made in food offerings at the meeting.
- The Texas Master Gardener newsletter has information about the upcoming Vegetable Specialist in it.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- No report; Barbara was not present.

Greenhouse – James Buckley and Glenn Dresner, co-chairs

- James' report is attached to the minutes.
- James mentioned that FBMG has been asked to grow and sell herbs for the Sugar Land Garden Club Fall Vegetable & Herb sale on 9/19/09. FBMG will sell the herbs for \$3/each and get 85% of the income. A budget item set up under Fund Raising will be used to handle the accounting.

Landscape –Cindy Fairbanks and Jane Gray, co-chairs

- Cindy's report is attached to the minutes. A pond cleaning proposal/bid was also attached which was discussed as New Business.
- Jane acknowledged that several of the master gardeners worked on getting the gardens ready for the garden tour on June 30th.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Marilyn reported that 23 of the new master gardener graduates have paid their membership dues and a total of 192 names are now on the list.
- Food will be available on the upcoming Work Day.
- Marilyn has talked to Hurley Johnson from the Bonsai Society of Houston about conducting a workshop, possibly for 4 hours and with a charge of \$45. Hurley will provide the supplies. One option for a suitable date/time might be Saturday morning, August 8th. Marilyn will send out an email to determine interest.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- No report; Ginny was not present.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- Material for a discussion on term limits of Board officers was prepared by the Committee and discussed as New Business.

Extension Service Advisor Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch

- Shari expressed her thanks for all the help in preparing for Tuesday's elected official tour. She stated that about 15 officials attended and some promised to tell other colleagues about the good experience they had. Approximately 30 people enjoyed a meal. Shari mentioned that the event could become an annual one.

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Margo announced that 19 people have signed up for the fall Master Gardener class that starts 8/12/09. She will be sending out a press release soon.

Old Business:

Unfinished Business from Prior Year

- Nat went over the Unfinished Business to get updates from Board members.
 - Item #10 Creating an inventory of office and garden equipment is now complete.
 - Plans for Items # 4 Creating options for MGs with physical limitations, # 11 Designating a work day equipment manager, #12 Implementing a mentoring program are ongoing.
 - Target dates were set for followup on the following: # 14 Removal of the diseased citrus trees 11/09, # 15 Dedication of the outdoor classroom 10/21/09, and # 17 Creation of a storm prep check list 7/11/09.

New Business:

Term Limits

- It had been previously proposed by a Board member that options for extending the term limits for officers be considered due to the ongoing difficulty the Nominating Committee has had in getting candidates willing to serve. This type of change would require a revision of the Bylaws, specifically Article VII, Section D. A list of options was presented by the Secretary and there was a general discussion by the Board members present held on the advisability of changing the term limits. It was decided that further discussion and any decisions on extending term limits for officers be tabled until the August meeting when more Board members are present. The list of options considered was revised and will be sent to Board members prior to the August meeting.

Entomology Budget

- Margo told the Board that Nancy Shafer is the new chair of the Entomology group and they have submitted a budget for \$1850.00. Nat will call Nancy with questions regarding the budget submission and the discussion will be tabled until the next meeting. Board members were asked to send specific questions to Nat.

Sugarland Garden Club Fund Raiser

- Previously discussed under the greenhouse report.

Veggie Specialist Dinner

- Margo discussed the dinner location plans for the upcoming Veggie Specialist Class. The dinner will be held at the Caldwell Nursery in the bamboo arbor gardens. Twenty-nine people have signed up to date. Kathy's Catering has been called to prepare the dinner which will be held July 31st at 5:30 pm. It was discussed if Board members would be available to attend and help before- and after- the dinner and whether their meal would be self-pay or paid for by FBMG. Jane made a motion that FBMG pay for the meal for Board members that are able to attend and assist. James seconded the motion and it was approved by all. Expenses will be accounted under Board Operations.

Landscape Design Course

- Jane has been in contact with Mary Dargan about offering a Landscape Design Training course for FBMG and potential dates for this course. Ms. Dargan has submitted an expense sheet with proposed expenses. Jane has created an application form for approval for the course to be held on 9/11 – 9/12/09 with a registration fee of \$350.00. The course would be offered to a maximum of 20 Fort Bend master gardeners first until 8/15/09, and then opened to Harris County. It was discussed how the additional speaker expenses would be paid. Marilyn made a motion that FBMG allocate up to

\$1500.00 for these expenses. Brenda seconded the motion and it was approved by all. A second motion was made by Brenda to increase the registration fee for applicants outside of Fort Bend county to \$425.00 to help cover these expenses. Peg seconded the motion and it was approved by all. Shari, Margo and Jane will revise the related documents to reflect these motions.

Pond Repair

- A letter and a bid from Justin at Pond Pros for pond cleaning and pump replacement expenses were discussed. Justin and Pond Pros have been well-recommended. The previous budget allowance was set at \$250.00 since funds were not used and \$238.00 of this has been spent to date. The Board was in agreement that this work should be approved. Jane moved that the budget be adjusted by \$1500.00 to have the work done. Glenn seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Other

- Nat reported that he had called Mary Beth and she is willing to relinquish her position as editor of the *Grapevine*. She will contact Robert regarding this.
- Brenda proposed a dinner meeting with the speaker for the August monthly meeting. Those interested will meet at Gringo's at 5 pm.

Nat adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Peacock
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Amended and submitted 8/11/09

Awards Committee

From : Jodie Douglass

We are trying to agree on a comfortable date to hold our first organizational meeting in July. At this time, I have nothing to report.

July 7th Report --- Update on Green Thumb Seminars

All loose ends are tied up at The Lake House @ Cinco Ranch. Elvira Wu is passing out our fliers & pamphlets to builders, real estate offices, community centers, community swimming pools, churches, and just about anywhere they will allow her to post one.

The following request has been sent to each of the speakers in order to review their programs for inclusion of all the earthkind requests coming down from A&M.

The following e-mail was sent to all speakers requesting a review of their program.

Attached is our program schedule for this coming season to be held at "The Lake House" in Cinco Ranch.

Marilyn Almon has graciously dropped her program on Propagation in order that we may add Rainwater Harvesting by Nat Gruesen. Because of this change each of us need to add to our program a propagation portion when applicable to our individual subject matter. A&M is strongly requesting that we place more emphasis on water conservation, IPM and the organic way of life. Our programs are directed to the homeowner and our objective is to teach them how he/she can apply this to their life style in the most simplistic manner utilizing tried and true practices approved by A&M.

Because of this strong push by A&M, Shari Koch and Margo need to review all of our programs, in person, prior to our August starting date. Give either Sherri (281/633-7034) or Mac (281/633-7033) a phone call immediately and set a date/time with them. For those of you who work 8 to 5, they will accommodate you to fit in with your time frame.

As always it is requested that you remember to emphasize your specific subject matter only with a minor reference to other subjects given by other speakers. Right now, start reviewing your programs, make additions/deletions accordingly, and then set a date for your review. If you have any questions concerning current status of changes in processes/procedures, give either Shari or Mac a phone call.

July 2009 Greenhouse Report

From: James Buckley

1. Started 3 types of tomato seeds on June 24th
 - Early Goliath - indeterminate
 - Cluster Grande - indeterminate
 - Champion – determinate

2. FBMG has been asked to grow and sell herbs for their September 19th GAP sale
 - Meeting was held on July 1 to discuss and to get organized
 - Plants for cuttings have been purchased from Caldwells
 - Seeds have been ordered from Pinetree seeds
 - Plant tags have been ordered from Labelsetc

Landscaping Report

From: Cindy Fairbanks

(A proposal/bid for cleaning the pond was submitted by separate attachment to the Board for review at the July 7th Board meeting.)

On June 9th, Shari, Margo, Glenn and I met with Justin Bristol from Pond Pros to discuss what it would take to make the pond filter and function better.

Several weeks before all of this came about Nelson's Water Gardens came out and gave us a quote for the same work. Their quote came back as \$2,000.00 to install a bog filter but with no details.