



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
October 14, 2008**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Brenda Dresner, Glenn Dresner, Jodie Douglass, Jane Gray, Nat Gruesen, Marilyn Almon, and Mary Beth McCaughey via phone.

Board Members Absent: Sallie Bourgeois, Barbara Brannon, James Buckley, Cindy Fairbanks, Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Mike Greenwood, and Barbara McCormick.

AgriLife Extension Advisor Present:

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

AgriLife Extension Advisor:

CEA - Horticulture – Open position

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Nat Gruesen called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Nat Gruesen and a second by Brenda Dresner, the minutes of the September 9, 2008, Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Nat Gruesen

- See Old Business.

Vice President – Barbara McCormick

- Barbara was not present.

Secretary – Marilyn Almon

- No report.

Treasurer – Mike Greenwood

- Mike was not present.

Past President – Mary Beth McCaughey

- Mary Beth announced that she, Ginny Grant, and Becky Smith would comprise the Nominating Committee to offer the slate of officer candidates for 2009 FBCMG Executive Board positions which will be voted on by the membership at the November monthly meeting. She also asked the Board for recommendations for officer positions.
- At the October meeting, Brenda will inform the membership about the upcoming election.
- The deadline to submit articles for the next edition of The Grapevine will be October 24th.
- Glenn announced that Fort Bend County has insured the Outdoor Classroom. He again inquired about a date for scheduling the dedication of the Outdoor Classroom and it was agreed that it should be held after the November political elections and after the landscaping around the structure has been completed, perhaps early in 2009.
- Margo commented that the ceiling fan chains in the Outdoor Classroom had been vandalized during fair time.
- Mary Beth mentioned that Urban Harvest will hold its Fruit Tree Sale at Rice Stadium on January 17th and Board members present agreed to loan wagons to them again. Margo suggested that FBCMG members could learn useful tips for our sales by working at the Urban Harvest sale.
- Mary Beth would like to procure the services of Ray Scher and Dr. Bob Randall to present seminars during the FBCMG Fruit Tree Sale.

Budget Items

- Glenn made a motion, seconded by Jodie and approved by all, to approve funds for an American Express gift card in the amount of \$100 plus convenience fee, to be given to Doug Staff in appreciation of his extraordinary help to FBCMG.
- Marilyn made a motion, seconded by Brenda and approved by all, requesting funds to purchase \$25 gift cards to be given to 23 master gardeners in appreciation of volunteering their gardens for the Fall Garden Tour.

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- Jodie requested that another APBee requesting volunteers for the awards banquet committee be sent to the membership. The banquet will be held on Wednesday, December 10th.
- Nat reminded all that there will not be a regularly scheduled Board meeting in December, but the budget meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on December 16th. The vote to approve the 2009 budget will be taken on January 13, 2009, by the new Board.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Robert was not present.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Brenda reported that estimates were obtained from Kromberg's Flags and Flagpoles in Bellaire. A 3x5 flag would cost \$150, flagpoles range in price from \$80 to \$350, and orders would require two to three weeks for delivery.
- The Chronicle published pictures and an article about the FBCMG gardens in early October.
- Margo and Brenda have tried out the new portable microphone system purchased by Extension. It is not a cordless model. They would like to obtain a megaphone.
- Dr. Doug Welsh will bring 50 more copies of his newest book to be sold at the October monthly meeting.
- FBCMG now has an account with A&M Press and can purchase books from them.
- Brenda suggested copying a fence design for the grounds that is used at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum, consisting of an inverted "J" shape which prevents climbing over the fence.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Barbara was not present.

Greenhouse – James Buckley and Glenn Dresner, co-chairs

- James was not present.
- Glenn commented that the back wall of the greenhouse was bent by Hurricane Ike's winds and needs to be straightened. He will check with Don Brady about insurance coverage to repair the damage.

Landscape –Cindy Fairbanks and Jane Gray, co-chairs

- Cindy was not present.
- Cindy and Jane's report is attached to the minutes.
- Nat asked Jane and Cindy to present a procedures list to the Board to finalize and determine who will take responsibility for each area of storm preparation on the grounds.
- Elizabeth Barrow is willing to present a monthly program on organics vs. conventional options in the garden.
- The question about who would assume Doug Staff's responsibility for chemical application approval in the gardens was raised. It was decided to designate the landscape co-directors, Jane and Cindy, to be responsible for granting permission for chemical usage.
- Margo will contact Paul Nestor about fire ant treatment options in the gardens.
- Margo will contact Dwight Callas about digging holes for the trees to be planted on the grounds. Nat would like to have a time line for the project.
- Jim Cowan will devise a plan and make recommendations for revising the irrigation system in the gardens. Jim's helper will be compensated while Jim's time would be donated.

Member Relations – Sallie Bourgeois

- Sallie was not present.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Ginny was not present.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- No report.

Extension Service Advisor Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Open

Master Volunteer Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Margo reported that fair attendance numbers increased this year and that the Ag Barn had tremendous exposure due to its prominent placement near the front entry gate. Extension estimated that 82,500 people attended – the highest attendance ever – possibly due to the high cost of gas and the hurricane keeping people at home. Teachers were very complimentary. There were 1409 students, teachers, and parents in attendance on school days. The booths were manned full time. A follow-up meeting was held on October 13th. Clean-up required an all day effort on the Monday after the fair and there were not enough people to help.
- The next master gardener class will start in August 2009.
- Angie Pavlovsky has resigned as chair of the hospitality committee, but is willing to remain on the committee.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee

- See Mary Beth's report.

Fall Garden Tours

- Marilyn updated Board members on the status of the Fall Garden Tours, stating that everything is on track to begin on October 19th and run through November 9th, with 23 gardens participating as of meeting time.

Financial Audit

- Nat has contacted Gail Blair about conducting the audit of FBCMG financial records for 2008.

New Business:

None

After a motion by Nat, seconded by Brenda and approved by all, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, November 12th, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Almon
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
11/11/2008

Ft. Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Landscaping Report – October, 2008
Report to the Board
Submitted by: Cindy Fairbanks/Jane Gray

Berry Patch –

No report.

Butterfly Garden –

Barbara Buckley has taken over as the new Chair. She and her crew had a massive cleanup with weeding and pruning. Looks great.

Circle Gardens –

Becky Leugemors will be resigning as Chair. She will be staying on in an advisory roll. We will be looking for another Chair. She and her crew are ready to start the winter planting.

Cottage Garden –

Wind chimes were made of old silverware and hung by Brenda, Becky and Faith. Saturday workday produced a lot of workers the spruced up the area.

EarthKind Rose Garden –

No report.

Everyone's Garden (the E-Garden) –

Lillian Tigard had to resign due to health reasons. She will continue to work in the garden. We will be looking for another Chair. This Wednesday the crew will be meeting to prune and cleanup.

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Front Yard -

No report.

Greenhouse -

See Greenhouse Report.

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Herb Knot Garden –

No report.

Japanese Garden –

Maria Blaise and her crew have done a lot of watering, trimming, and pruning. They are working on replacing some dead plants. Maria took many of the new associates out to show them what to do when she is not there.

Native Garden/Rain Harvesting –

Wednesday, October 8th Catherine Pennington (Chair), Vince Mannino, Don Parkhouse, Jane Gray, Margo McDowell and Ginny Grant went over the plans for the Rain Harvesting area. Vince is getting info on placement of the windmill. Margo will be getting info on underground sewer and electrical lines. Catherine has gathered grasses. No further work will be done until info is ready.

Rose Garden –

Faith Bickley and Nery Voss will be the new Co-Chairs.

Vegetable Garden –

Patty and her crew have been planting seeds and getting the gardens ready for the fall season.

Vineyard –

No report.

Water Garden –

Terry Williams and his crew purchased and put in some new water lilies and cleaned up the pond area.

Yardwise/Compost –

No report.

Miscellaneous –

- ❖ Before the hurricane every item that could be blown away was taken down and stored. After the hurricane damage was minimal. We do need to have a future procedure list. We will contact the Chairs and come up with a list.
- ❖ Two (2) tillers were bought this month. A lightweight Craftsmen and a lightweight Mantis.
- ❖ The article on the gardens was in the October 9th section of the Houston Chronicle.
- ❖ Elizabeth Barrow, Master Gardener and employee of Enchanted Forest came out to do the Advanced Training. She spoke about organics vs. conventional options in the garden.
- ❖ The Sugar Land Garden Club Tour was cancelled September 23 due to the hurricane. It has been rescheduled for October 28th.
- ❖ Question: Can we designate Chairs to apply chemicals when needed in their gardens? We could come up with a list of what chemicals to use.