



GARDEN GAZETTE APRIL 2017

Planning and scheduling meeting minutes of March 21, 2017, 4-H meeting room at Vigo County Fairgrounds.

Educational time: 1.5 hours. Vice President Charlene McKean introduced our speaker, Allison Finzel, who is Community Wellness Coordinator for the Purdue Extension Office. She spoke about Food Rescue Initiatives. Public Health is extremely slow to adopt them. Around 60 counties out of 92 around the state have a program. Vigo County is 71st and 91st of the counties in obesity and health. She has been trying to get a program into schools and was told that the Vigo County School Corporation is too large for such a program. St. Patrick School is doing it by having students place unwanted food on a table to be shared by others. Students have to take a fruit and a vegetable and some prefer not to eat them so a lot of food goes to waste. Second Helpings on the eastside of Indianapolis has a program and Catholic Charities is starting a culinary program by

preparing leftovers. One in six students throws away one or more food items. Forty percent of food is thrown away in trash creating methane gas. She showed a video featuring three different programs and noted that a lot of the waste is not always a food waste problem as much as a food distribution problem. Allison is helping to work on the Wabash Valley Food Rescue program. She commended the Master Gardeners for their work with the food kitchens.

Meeting called to order by President Greg Fields at 7:40pm.

Minutes published in the Gazette. Greg called for additions or corrections. There were none. A motion was made and seconded that the minutes be accepted as published. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Recording Secretary Carole Dreher passed an attendance sheet.

Vice President Charlene McKean said April's speaker will be Jason Cote.

Corresponding Secretary Verna Gaskin was not in attendance.

Treasurer Mary Beth Prickel reported on income and expenses and noted the balance in our account as of March 15, 2017.

Service Coordinator Jessica Fields said she is working with the Extension Office to help work out bugs with the on-line reporting system.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg said a planting day for the Giving Garden will be held at Ivy Tech on March 23, 2017 at 10:00am.

Flower Beds: Larry Agee, Head Bedkeeper said that he attended a meeting with the Parks Department and they have cut our budget.

Spring Seminar: Jessica reported that 200 adults attended this event. We had income of \$2,668.14. Next year's seminar will be held on March 10, 2018. We

already have 3 vendors for next year. The speaker sessions were well attended. Jessica commended her committee who were honored with applause.

Website: Sam noted that he had submitted payment for the domain name.

Matter in Motion: Sharon Polge reported that she has pinecones. She will call the persons who have volunteered to serve on this committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jessica's J&J Nursery will host their plant giveaway at the Fairgrounds on April 29th. She has around 8,000 plants. The event will begin at 8:00am. She asked members to save boxes for her. She emphasized that this is **not** a Master Gardener program, but members can claim volunteer hours by working on the event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Earth Day at St. Mary of the Woods will occur on April 22, 2017.

Hendricks County is hosting a Gardening Event on April 22nd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Check wvmga.org for additional announcements.

Next Meetings:

- Board meeting April 6, 2017, Vigo Co. Library, room 6, 6:00pm.
- Planning and Scheduling meeting April 18, 2017, at the Dobb's Park Native American Museum at 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned with .5 hours volunteer time for the 31 members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 6, 2017

Vigo Co. Library, room 6

President Greg called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Members in attendance: Greg Fields, Charlene McKean, Carole Dreher, Verna Gaskin, Mary Beth Prickel, Jessica Fields, Sam Ligget, Phil Small, Carl Trent.

Non Board Members in attendance: Bob Archer.

Minutes of last Board meeting: Greg noted that they had been published in the March edition of the Gazette. He said that they had been approved at the Planning and scheduling meeting.

Vice President: Charlene said that the April speaker will be Jason Cote who will speak about organic gardening. There will be no speaker at the May meeting which will take place at Deming Park to honor the interns who completed the Spring Intern Class. There will be speaker at the June meeting which will take place at the completion of our annual Garden Tour.

Corresponding Secretary Verna stated she had nothing to report.

Treasurer Mary Beth presented printed reports of our account and of the recent Gardeners Gathering. She circulated the most recent bank statement for members to examine. She made some remarks about some of the items in the reports. She spoke about filing taxes for the organization. She initiated some changes in reporting by making it more generic. She set up a g-mail account called wvmgaa@gmail.com. This way communication can come to this account rather than to whoever is the current treasurer.

Service Coordinator Jessica reported that John Orick and Dana Gadenken are trying to determine how to make someone (her, likely) an administrator.

COMMITTEES:

Giving Garden: Greg said he has a student at Ivy Tech who will till the Garden.

Bob Archer reported that he has seed potatoes that need to be planted soon. He is hoping to have raised beds put in at the Happiness Bag facility. He has some

students who will help build the beds. The greenhouse is full. Plants look good. We have cut back on tomatoes this year.

Website: Sam said he has entered information about the April meeting and noted the fact that the May meeting will take place at the Ute Shelter in Deming Park.

Publicity: Greg asked if we needed to appoint someone to this committee. It was noted that we had some persons who volunteered for this committee last year – Jessica Fields and former member Greg Pies.

Matter in Motion: will take place at Ivy Tech on April 8 at 9:00am.

Bedkeeper report:

Fairgrounds: Bob Archer said that he needs around \$200 for landscaping around the Community Building.

OLD BUSINESS:

Earth Day at the Woods will take place on April 22. Greg and Verna repotted tomatoes. We have around 50 tomatoes. The herbs look good. Plants need to be picked up on Friday, April 21st at 5:00PM.

Sam Ligget is going to help four young men plant the courtyards at West Vigo. He said that we also need to follow up on a request to help maintain some gardens at Terre Haute South High School during the summer months.

Jessica's J&J Nursery will host a plant giveaway on April 29th for persons who might not be able to acquire them without help. She will need some volunteers on Friday, April 28th at 10:30am. She also needs donations of some boxes for carrying plants. She said that the event will not be advertised on the Marquee because it is not a public event. This is **NOT** a Master Gardener project, but members can earn volunteer hours by working on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Herb Faire: This event will take place at the Vigo County Fairgrounds on May 13, 2017. Verna and Debbie will be shopping for plants. Set up will take place between 1:00 and 7:00pm on Friday, May 12th. Sam will see about locating racks that we use to display plants that we are selling.

Cobblestone Crossing needs some volunteers to help tend flower beds at their facility.

Signature Health Care Alzheimer's Unit needs help with planting some beds and advice on maintaining them after they are planted.

There was discussion about appointing an exploratory committee to determine if it would be feasible for our organization to conduct an annual WVMGA Plant Sale, perhaps to help fund some group and activity.

Catholic Charities needs help with their greenhouse. Patty Weaver has been working with them, but they have not been able to use it yet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Phil Small listed some upcoming events sponsored by Master Naturalists.
- Greg said that he is working to help develop an alternative energy class.
- Greg stated it is time to make a \$300 donation to Ivy Tech as a reimbursement for use of their greenhouse and some materials. We have a line item in our 2017 proposed budget for this donation.
- Greg said that he will not be able to schedule a meeting place at the Library for Board meetings until June.

Check wvmga.org website for additional announcements.

Next Board meeting May 4, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Public Library, room 6.

Next Planning and scheduling meeting will be at the Dobbs Park Native American Indian Museum on 4-18-17 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned after 1 hour of volunteer time.

Ok, now it's Spring.

I think that I can say with a reasonable amount of confidence that we are glad to move forward into early morning, sunny days, and springtime showers. I am officially done with the cold weather. We have several big events coming up! Earth Day events around town and the end of the Spring 2017 Master Gardener Class to name a few. Get a few credit hours in working with the new Master Gardener interns, start a 4-H spark club, or preparing garden beds around town. There are so many ways to get out and about this gardening season! Well, I won't keep you. Go outside and breathe in the springtime air!

Dana Gadeken

Master Gardener Coordinator, Vigo County