



NOVEMBER 2015

GARDEN GAZETTE

Minutes of Planning and Scheduling meeting of October 20, 2015, 6:30pm, 4H Meeting Room at Wabash Valley Fairgrounds.

Educational time earned was 1 hour. Speaker Shikha Bhattacharyya (Bot-ah-Char-e-ah) was introduced by Jim Luzar. She said that she was originally from India and is a pharmacist. She has a garden at the ISU Community gardens. She is taking Health & Science classes at ISU and doing a research project on gardening at 14th & Chestnut. She has a Community Foundation grant to do a project with children.

PRESIDENT Bob Archer called to order at 6:33pm.

MINUTES: from the September Planning and Scheduling meeting and the October 1st Board of Directors meeting were published in the October Gazette. Bob asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none and they were approved as written by a voice vote.

RECORDING SECRETARY Carole Dreher passed around an attendance sheet.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Verna Gaskin checked to see if everyone was receiving the emails and Gazette.

TREASURER Pat Youman reported the balance in our account.

SERVICE COORDINATOR Jessica Fields is reviewing records of volunteer and educational hours. She had reports for individual members and said they would be available for them to pick up and check to make sure that all hours recorded match their personal records.

COMMITTEES:

GIVING GARDEN Greg Fields said that the lack of rain has been a problem. So far volunteers have harvested and donated 27,130 pounds of produce. The greenhouse is waiting for electricity and water in the barrels. Plants have been started in the greenhouse at IVY Tech. WEBSITE Sam Ligget said that the website has been updated and noted that it uses military time.

FLOWER BEDS Bill Hiatt, Head Bedkeeper, reported that the beds look okay. He said that he drove around checking them. He is cleaning up stuff that the frost took down.

SPRING SEMINAR Jessica Fields said that her committee has three people confirmed as speakers. They are still looking for vendors and sponsors. A committee meeting is planned for 11/6/15 at 10:00am.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK Beth Keyes reported that they have had work days and got a lot accomplished. She passed around a sheet for members to volunteer to work in the refreshment stand during the time allocated to our organization. They plan to set up on November 21st. Displays will be lit on December 1. Judging will take place on December 7th. Our display will be judged at 7:00pm.

2016 ELECTION Nomination Committee members, Peggy Harlan, Mary Beth Prickel and Vicki Cochran distributed ballots.

OLD BUSINESS:

MEMORIAL GARDEN This project is still being worked on.

VCPL LEARNING DAYS Sharon Polge said that they had a good day and had several children and their families who participated. There was some discussion about the benefits of having children exposed to gardening and how the experience generally helps them appreciate the experience and more likely to do some gardening activities later in their life.

AREA MASTER GARDENER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE MEETING ON 9/24/15 some persons who attended this meeting at the Vigo County Fairgrounds reported on this field. They said that one organization had reported having one successful project where they sold milkweed plants and made quite a bit of money. Several attendees from other groups were impressed by the number of men who belong to our group and actively participate. Retention of members was a concern of several groups. After the reports a discussion was held about how we might raise and sell milkweed plants since this is a project that many members are interested in.

EMERGENCY ISSUES reported in last month's meeting have been resolved and Jennifer Cook of the Fair Board is okay with us.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob asked for volunteers to take donuts to the Parks, Fairgrounds and Extension Office personnel.

Bob distributed copies of proposed expenses for our organization for 2016.

The Nomination/Election committee reported that they had counted the ballots. Only one position was contested and that was for Service Coordinator. Officers for 2016 will be as follows:

PRESIDENT: Bob Archer

VICE PRESIDENT: Greg Fields

RECORDING SECRETARY: Carole Dreher.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Verna Gaskin

TREASURER: Pat Youman

SERVICE COORDINATOR: Jessica Fields

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Past Officers – Larry Agee, Sam Ligget (Two Past Officers)
Member at Large – Phil Small

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Check www.wvmga.org for announcements.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Board meeting November 5, 2015, Vigo Co. Library, 6:00pm, Rm. 6.
- Planning and scheduling meeting, Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 6:30pm, 4H Meeting Room, Fairgrounds.

The meeting was adjourned with 1 hour of volunteer time for the 31 members in attendance. Respectfully submitted by Carole Dreher, Recording Secretary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors meeting Nov. 5, 2015, 6:00pm, VCPL, Rm. 6.

President Bob Archer called the meeting to order at 5:55pm.

Members in attendance: Bob Archer, Greg Fields, Carole Dreher, Verna Gaskin, Pat Youman, Larry Agee, Sam Ligget, Phil Small, Jessica Fields, Carl Trent.

Non Board member in attendance: Abby Sweet represented the Extension Office.

Minutes of last Board meeting: Carole said that they had been published in the October edition of the Garden Gazette. Bob asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none so the minutes stand approved as written.

Vice President: Greg announced that Kathy & Jason Cote will be November speakers and their topic will be organic gardening.

Corresponding Secretary: Verna said that she had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Pat reported on financial activity for the month and reported the balance in our account. She also passed around the latest bank statement for member perusal.

Service Coordinator: Jessica said that Mary Beth Prickel is ready for a badge whenever the next badge order is turned in after December 4th. She also said that the member records have been reviewed and are almost up to date.

Giving Garden: Greg said they are still harvesting and donated so far this year 27,230 pounds.

Flowerbeds: Bill was not present to report on these.

Website: Sam reported that we received a bill from the web hosting company for our website in the amount of \$209.40 for a 5 year agreement along with another charge for \$14.95 for the domain renewal. There was discussion about putting these items in our budget. It was agreed that we should add an amount of \$42.00 per year (due on 11-22-2020) for the web host and \$15.00 for the domain name.

2016 Proposed Expenses: Discussion ensued about whether we should add line items to the budget for bereavement and memorial expense. It was finally decided that we would add a line item of \$200.00 for bereavement expense with the specification that \$50.00 be allocated for flowers to be sent to the funeral of a member and a member's spouse, child or parent. In the case of an out of town death, memorial flowers would be sent to the members home.

Spring Seminar 2016: Jessica reported on the work of this committee. She said that one speaker, Art Davidson from Baker's Creek, has requested that, in addition to a speaker's fee, he be reimbursed for one night's lodging and mileage (estimated by Jessica at \$324 based on \$.45 per mile). His topic will be Seed Saving from the Garden. There was discussion at this point about how to handle income and expenses for the seminar in the budget since we hope to have any expenses covered by the income and hopefully, make a profit. Currently this expense line item is set at \$0.00 in anticipation of being offset by income from the event. Jessica also said that we have a speaker from Rose-Hulman who will talk about GMO's. We expect to have 4 speakers and a panel. Some solicitation letters have been sent to potential sponsors.

Discussion arose about publication of sponsor's names and/or business information. Some persons spoke about how other groups have handled this matter at similar events that they have attended. Some have put them into booklets as we have; some have put them on printed sheets in a packet; some have put up signs and others have projected them on a screen.

Christmas in the Park: Bob said that set up will be at 10:00am on Saturday, November 21st in Deming Park. Some volunteers will be needed to pick up some items from the Master Gardeners trailer at the Fairgrounds at 9:00am. Pat Youman said that she would need someone to pick up a large item from her garage also.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bed keeper reports:

- 1st and Oak – Bob said that he had pulled some weeds from this bed and noted that there had been some damage from either chipmunks or voles.
- Hawthorne – Larry Agee said he hopes to check with Amber Slaughterback to see if the spraying that she planned had been done yet.
- Fairgrounds – Greg said that he and Jim Luzar will take care of the debris pile at this location.

Donuts for Fairgrounds, Hawthorne Park, TH City Parks and Extension Office people – Sam Ligget reported that he and Brenda Christianson had delivered these and that everyone was appreciative.

Susan Laitas memorial – Phil Small said that he felt that the October speaker was critical of the enter at 14th and Chestnut. Whenever Phil spoke to the director at that facility he reported that they had had an unsatisfactory experience at the ISU Garden. If we are to specify their facility for a donation in memory of Susan, they would like to have it used for a scholarship for a summer intern.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting calendar for 2016 – Bob presented a proposed meeting schedule for 2016 for members approval. There was discussion and few changes were made. It was also determined that the December 2015 meeting would take place on the 15th. Bob asked if there was any preference to return the meeting time of the Planning and scheduling meeting to 6:00pm instead of 6:30pm as they had been at one time. No preference was stated.

State 2016 MG Conference sponsorship – We had received a request to help sponsor this event in the amount of \$250.00 or more. It was generally agreed that we did not really want to do that, but there was discussion about what they would do with the money if we would agree to be a sponsor. Do they make a profit? If they do, what would they do with it. It was agreed that we should do some research before a final decision on this. We need to check with Mr. Oreck. It was generally agreed that if they usually have a loss we should probably help but if they have made a profit we would prefer to pass.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A website called Native Plants Unlimited was mentioned. It is a site where milkweed seeds could be obtained and perhaps be planted and made available at the Earth Day event and the Herb Faire. Some wondered if that would be too early but Jessica and Greg said that they had offered some at the Spring Seminar last March. At this point some discussion occurred about what constitutes a conflict of interest between organization and its membership or other members of the community.

Fall intern classes – Jim Luzar had sent an email stating that all 25 participants of this class are on track for completion.

Check www.wvmga.org for additional announcements.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be at the VCPL on 1/7/16 at 6:00pm. (No Board meeting in December).

Meeting adjourned after 1.25 hours of volunteer time.

“The flowers of all tomorrows are the seeds of today”

EXTENSION EDUCATOR UPDATE

Hello Master Gardeners,

Since the beginning of March I have had the opportunity to get to know most of you and work alongside many on various programs and activities. It has been an awesome experience working with this group, however, starting November 30th I will be starting my new position in Purdue Extension as the 4-H Youth Development Educator in Montgomery County. I have truly enjoyed working with the Wabash Valley Master Gardeners and have learned so much with this position. Thank you for all of your hard work and assistance on various programs and activities and for helping make my time here with the Vigo County Extension office memorable!

Abby Sweet

Abby Sweet
Extension Educator

Hi Master Gardeners,

I want to publicly thank Abby Sweet for her efforts with the organization since March. Abby will be a super 4-H Youth Educator in Montgomery County and will actually sit in my old chair in Crawfordsville☺

Plan now for the intern class graduation on Tuesday, December 8th. We have 25 interns currently and I am expecting all of them to complete. Thanks to the program facilitators.

I am very thankful for your patience and grace over the past year. It has been a challenging year for me and I am grateful for all of your support.

Jim Luzar

Jim Luzar
Extension Educator, Ag/NR
County Extension Director for Parke & Vigo Counties
Partnership Coordinator
IVY Tech College