

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting minutes
Thursday, July 13, 2017
Extension Office
6:30 P.M.

In attendance: Ede Strand, Nancy Spak, Nina Logan, Dick Lienhardt, Mary Jane Griffin, Erin LaFaive, Carla Pelzl, Sue Merten

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dick Lienhardt at 6:40 P.M.

Plant Sale recap: Sue Merten, Plant Sale Chairperson

Sue mentioned that the bad weather on sale day was a factor in our sales being down. An indoor site would eliminate the concern about weather. There also were fewer plant donations, due to the extra care that had to be taken to ensure that plants were free of jumping worms. Following Sue's report, there was discussion of where to have the sale in 2018. The Expo Center was mentioned as a location large enough that three organizations could co-host the sale – the Hosta Society, the Eau Claire Garden Club, and the Master Gardener Association. It was also suggested that the sale be moved to June, choosing a date that would be at least one month before the Junior 4-H Fair, which is held at the end of July. Susan was thanked for all her work as Plant Sale Chairperson.

Secretary's Report: Carla Pelzl

Nina mentioned that someone had said that minutes of recent board meetings are not on the ECAMGA website. That will be corrected. The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and approved as written. (Motion by Nancy, second by Nina. The motion carried.)

Treasurer's Report: Ede Strand

The report included plant sale expenses (\$492.08) and receipts (\$1,637.65). Dick Lienhardt moved that the report be approved; seconded by Nina Logan. The motion passed.

Horticulture Educator's Report: Erin LaFaive

- Erin reported that Catherine Emmanuelle has been named as the Area Extension Director for Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties. Her office will be at the UW-Eau Claire.
- Currently the County Extension is \$30,000 short of what is needed. The Extension is to report that shortfall and give scenarios as to how it might be fixed (for example, cutting some staff hours, no longer sponsoring 4-H interns). There is a possibility the county, which also has a very tight budget, might still give some funding to Extension.
- The Teaching Garden is flourishing.
- The Nature Academy used the money donated by our association to add several new gardens which are used in their kids' gardening programs.
- There has been no further vandalism at the North River Front Youth Garden. Crops are doing well.
- Earthbound Environmental Solutions would like to have an "Earth Week" in 2018. Some of their ideas are: to include a science fair; to sponsor a race, with organizations that volunteer their help receiving a share of the profits; and to hold a "zero as possible" event, maybe involving a city block, to see how close the residents can get to zero waste. They would like the ECAMGA to sponsor a "big speaker".

Horticulture Educator's Report (continued)

- Hope Gospel and Ruth House gardens will have two of our MGV's , Donna Traaseth and Mary Jane Griffin, as volunteers.

Education Committee Report: Nina Logan

- Monthly educational meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month, rather than the third Tuesday. The August 21st meeting on Backyard Beekeeping will be presented by Kristina Beuning. September's meeting will be an end-of-season Harvest Potluck. It will be open to MGV's and Garden Club members, but not to the general public. There will be an opportunity to share how our gardens did this season – what worked, what didn't, what surprised us, etc.
- Dick Lienhardt is hosting a tour of his extensive vegetable gardens on July 19th at 6:00 P.M., with July 20th as the rain date.
- The Southside Community Gardeners will host a garden tour at the end of July or early August.

WIMGA Update: Ellen Terwilliger

- The State Conference will be held in West Bend October 14-15, 2017
- The State Conference will be in Eau Claire September 21-22, 2018

Old Business:

Bulaws: Nancy Spak moved that we adopt the bylaws as revised and send them out to the membership, with the time frame for notification and response being changed from 30 days to 14 days. Motion seconded by Nina. Motion passed.

Winter Garden Seminar: The date is Saturday, February 3, 2018. Volunteers are needed to start planning the event. Nina will put a notice in the newsletter.

The next meeting is August 10, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Pelzl, Secretary