

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 14, 2019  
Eau Claire County Extension Office**

**In attendance:** Ede Strand, Mary Jane Griffin, Dick Lienhardt, Chris Southworth, Ellen Terwilliger, Rita Gundry, Nancy Spak, Carla Pelzl

**Call to order:** President Mary Jane Griffin called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report from October 2019 was reviewed and accepted as corrected. (motion by Ellen T., second by Nancy S.) The correction follows: Under Old Business - "Munch and Learn" event: Nancy had suggested inviting elementary school children next year, not Ellen as stated in the October 2019 minutes.

**Horticulture Coordinator's Report:** Margaret Murphy

**Board election ballots:** Mary Jane Griffin and Carla Pelzl will count the completed ballots.

**Education Committee Report:** Nina Logan, Lori Kempen

The following updates were added to education programming for 2019 – 2020:

March 16 – Larry Liegel will speak on the topic of Bluebirds

November 18 – Gardening with Incarcerated Populations – Bill Manning, Chippewa Co. MGV

December 16 – Annual Holiday Party/Potluck; Food Pantry donations encouraged.

May 31 – Sunday – Plant Sale at Phoenix Park Pavilion

**Treasurer's Report:** - Ede Strand: The total account balance as of November 14, 2019 stood at \$12,510.59. Our account has been transferred from Associated Bank to Royal Credit Union. Ede will send a reminder to those members who have not yet submitted dues. A total of 42 MGV's have paid the dues, including the portion that goes to WIMGA. Motion carried. (Motion: Dick L, second, \_\_\_\_\_).

**WIMGA Representative's Update:** Ellen T. sent board members an email update that included links to a couple of WIMGA presentations. She will resend the email. Ellen reported that WIMGA members submitted 169,000 hours of service and 46,900 hours of Continuing Education. Exempt status will now be available to MGV's who need to take time off from the MG program. They will be able to return to active status by fulfilling the volunteer requirements. Our bylaws will need to be updated early in January.

Following is a brief summary of Ellen's WIMGA email updates:

- The WIMGA Annual Meeting was held in Stevens Point
- In addition to the meeting, Bernie Williams of the Wis. DNR provided an update on Jumping Worms
- Prof. Paul Whitaker, Dept. of Biology, presented on Climate Change & Impacts on Gardening in Wisconsin.
- A PDF of the Annual Meeting power point available at <https://www.wimga.org>

Highlights from Annual Meeting:

- From 10/01/2018 to 09/30/2019, 2627 MGV's reported approximately 169K volunteer hours. Estimated value is nearly \$4 million dollars. They also reported 46.9K Cont. Education hours and about 400K contacts.

- MGV Enrollment Status – New volunteer agreements will be posted in the upcoming months for all volunteers to sign off on the Online Reporting System. PD's will be sent to all volunteers annually. Everyone must be enrolled (complete CBC, forms, etc.) before volunteering. Hours completed when not enrolled will not count. This will mostly impact members attempting to recertify after an absence. In addition to intern and certified status, new levels will be introduced to provide more flexibility.
- Exempt status was discussed for members needing to take a year or more off due to family or health issues.
- Emeritus status will be offered for MGV's who can no longer maintain the requirements but have contributed significantly through projects, hours and years.
- Our by-laws need to be updated to match WIMGA's regarding membership categories.

Ellen has decided to step down as WIMGA representative and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the last four years. Carla moved that we thank Ellen for her service; the motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

- Winter Garden Seminar, February 1, 2020 – Speakers are all set. Ellen will start posting seminar information on our website. Marcie O'Connor has agreed to be keynote speaker for 2021; Carla has been in contact with her.
- Plant Sale will be Sunday, May 31, 2020. Dick L. cannot continue growing as many seedlings as in the past; he will need help and encouraged interested MGV's to contact him. It was suggested that we have sign-up sheets listing our "priority projects" at the Holiday Potluck.
- Priority projects for sign-up:
  - Teaching Garden – Chris Southworth expressed interest in taking a leadership role.
  - Munch 'N Learn – Nancy Spak offered to lead. Suggestions: Invite an elementary class to visit the Teaching Garden in May with their families and have the same group return in late summer. Nancy will check with a couple of elementary schools to determine interest. Serve simple finger foods.
  - Ask a MG booth at the Farmer's Market has been led by Andy Heren.
  - Kids' Garden – Judi Mitchell and her team have been working with children and their parents
  - Plant Sale 2020 – date is Sunday, May 31. Leaders are Mary Jane Griffin and Susan Merten
  - Maintenance of Beaver Creek gardens
  - Winter Garden Seminar February 1, 2020 – Nina Logan chairs the seminar planning committee.
  - Association Communications - Carol Cox is the editor of the monthly newsletter. Joanne Clark has also expressed interest in this area.
  - WIMGA representative – Has been filled by Ellen Terwilliger for the past four years. We will be seeking a MGV willing to represent the Eau Claire County Association.

### **Other Old Business:**

- Digger's award update and a list of past honorees was provided by Mary Jane
- Progress on binders containing important documents to be provided to all board members (by-laws, minutes, etc.) These will be passed on from retiring board members to new board members.

### **New Business:**

- Preliminary planning for 2020:
  - Chris distributed a list of Calendar events (to-do's) for January 2020 through January 2021 and has asked the board to review that list which includes established, on-going dates and events. Officers will be selected, binders distributed, and the new board will determine the day of the week and time of day for board meetings.
  - CVTC scholarships: Receivers were Sara Swope and Rachel Miller. Beginning this year, the CVTC Foundation will take ask \$25 for each scholarship to cover administration costs. Mary Jane suggested that next year our association should send in \$525 for each scholarship so participants can each receive

\$500. Our association awards two scholarships each year to selected students in the CVTC's "Landscape Plant and Turf Management" program.

Next board meeting: Thursday, December 12, 2019. The first board meeting in the new year will be January 9, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM. Motion by Dick L; second by Nancy S.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Pelzl, Secretary