

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Evangelical Friends Church
January 18, 2016

Minutes

President Betty Jane Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m., and confirmed a quorum. She reported that three individuals have been interviewed for the Volunteer Coordinator position by Rita, Laura, Wanda, and Betty. Wanda was invited to participate to answer questions about the job. She provided good insight during the post interview discussions. The interview committee's recommendation was forwarded to VCE to make the job offer. Betty Jane stated that several HMGA leadership positions need to be filled. Juanita has asked to step back from the Master Gardener Room Coordinator position and Dave Myers has been kind enough to take over. Ian Sutton has stepped down from the Plant Clinic committee. Betty Jane has conferred with Buz Sawyer and will meet next week with volunteers that have shown the most interest in Plant Clinics. She suggested the responsibilities be divided so that one person is not overburdened. Betty Jane stated that we still need a Youth Coordinator and will need someone to lead the Spring Library Program. Val Kish has recommended Rhonda Searles for the Spring Library Position. Betty will approach Rhonda about that position, as well as the Youth Coordinator position. HMGA has received final approval from HEFC of all the dates requested for 2016 meetings. Betty Jane has completed work on the HMGA handbook, and it has been posted on VMS. She has also updated and posted her 2015 Annual Report to VMS. She reported that, as a result of the request for background screening, some MGs have asked to become inactive. They have been advised that they could remain HMGA members by continuing to pay their Association dues. Their MG status could be changed to "Alumni," but they would not be allowed to participate in any events involving interaction with the public. VCE recently sent an e-mail (attached below) to all MG units regarding "Emeritus" status and later expanded it to mention "any volunteer."

The reading of the minutes for the December 14, 2015, Board of Directors Meeting was waived, and the minutes, as previously distributed by e-mail, were approved.

The December Treasurer's report was submitted by Treasurer Pat Reyes. The Treasurer's report was accepted, pending audit. A copy of this report will be attached to the file copy of these minutes. Pat submitted a HMGA Budget for 2016 to the Board. The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed budget. After approval of the 2016 Roddy Jones Grants and a few other adjustments, the HMGA 2016 Budget was approved. Pat reported that she has filed IRS form 990-N to confirm our Non-Profit status and has paid the State Corporation Commission registration fees for 2015.

Christy Brennan, VMGA, reported the next VMGA meeting will be held on February 13 in the Northern Neck (details at VMGA.net). Christy has requested that all unit reps to give an update of their unit, to include: how many Master Gardeners are in each unit, name two main projects (include the target population- (i.e. youth) and one new project or event that each group is planning for this year. The Board suggested that Christy use the HGS and youth programs such as AG Days and the proposed Horticultural Learning Center (Demo Garden) to represent HMGA. Christy, after serving for 13 years, is also seeking a volunteer to take over as VMGA representative to the State Fair.

Susie Knuth, Member Meetings, reported that she has scheduled Linda McBride to speak at the General Membership Meeting on February 5, 2016. Linda is a certified Virginia Master Naturalist, a Henrico MG, and a Henrico Tree Steward. Linda is a member of the North American Butterfly Society and the Butterfly Society of Virginia, and raises a variety of species of butterflies and moths. Her yard is landscaped in native plants for pollinators, and she has hosted tours for several organizations. Susie asked for any information or recommendations on possible speakers for future meetings.

Joel Klein, Plant Sales, was not able to attend, and e-mailed his report to Betty Jane. In his report he states that it looks like all of the vendors from the last spring plant sale will be back this spring. He is working on two new vendors recommended by Ed Wall. He asked the BOD to consider a new vendor that would specialize in pickles and/or jams and jellies. He suggested that Betsy Lyon or Jim Stewart might know of one from their farmer's market experience. Joel is in favor of a plant sale meeting in February. He recommends working on the plant sale matrix to better organize and to delegate responsibilities. Pat will call a meeting of those members that served on the Plant Sale Committee last year. Betty Jane, Doris Gullotta, and Ed Wall also volunteered to serve on the committee.

Becky Watson, Grants Committee, reported that the committee received eight applications this year. She created a PDF for each of the grant applications, and sent them electronically to each of the committee members for review. The HMGA Grants Committee consists of Renee Mullins, Nancy LeFevre, Kristin Reihl, Mary Wagner, Sammye Daou, and Becky Watson. The committee met on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, to review the grant applications and compare scores. The committee recommended the Board fund six of the eight grants for 2016. The committee's complete report and a summary of the applications with details of the projects and their merits are attached. The Grants Committee made tentative plans to meet in mid-May to discuss ways to enhance the grant application and review timing of the program, in order to garner more applicants, to increase the quality of projects, and suggest ways that Master Gardeners can assist applicants with their proposals and their outcomes. Becky also suggested that the committee could look outside of the schools for educational grant opportunities. The Board discussed the recommendations of the committee and unanimously approved the funding of all six grants. Becky, Betty Jane, and Pat will take care of informing the applicants, congratulating the grant recipients, and sending out the checks. Dave Myers moved that the Board recognize the efforts, dedication, and diligence of the committee and thank them for their commitment in continuing to make the Roddy Jones Grants project a vital part of the HMGA commitment to the community. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ed Wall, HGS, stated that the winter HGS classes have started. Volunteer opportunities are posted on VMS. Classes are held at the Mechanicsville Library. The library will promote the classes, and sign-up will not be required to attend. Ed stated that MGs who attend a HGS class may record the training as CE on VMS. MGs may not claim more than one HGS class as CE. This CE opportunity is offered to replace the CE opportunity lost when 2016 Training Classes were canceled.

Lisa Willis suggested that the Board consider having some Member-led Meetings in other areas of the county to accommodate members in those areas. This topic was first presented by Lisa and discussed at the July 20, 2015, BOD Meeting. The Board again discussed the difficulties in finding a location that would meet all of the requirements of the HMGA. Lisa was unable to recommend any sites that would be suitable, and none have been suggested by those members that have raised the issue. Betty Jane said she would work with Dave on the Announcement Board, to send out a request for suggestions and look into the availability of other sites.

Betty Jane stated that, due in part to the required background checks and changes by VCE to the MG classifications, it is time to make a few tweaks to the HMGA by-laws. She suggested it might be a project for the immediate past president. Becky offered to be part of a committee to recommend the needed changes, as she had worked on the by-laws during their last revision.

Betty Jane announced the next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2016. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be on February 15, 2016. She will review the times for all meetings as posted on VMS.

The January Meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Present: Betty Jane Hughes, Susie Knuth, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Buz Sawyer, Linda Hazelwood, Christy Brennan, Emily Gianfortoni, Dave Myers, Juanita Wrenn, Beckey Watson, Ed Wall, Barb Sawyer, Doris Gullotta, and Lisa Willis. The attendance sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wayne Bryant
Secretary**



MG Status
Email.docx



Grants Committee
Report 1-18-16.docx



HMGA 2016 Grant
Application Overall Ev