

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Evangelical Friends Church
January 21, 2019

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and confirmed a quorum. She welcomed everyone to the first HMGA meeting of the new year.

The reading of the minutes of the November 19, 2018, BOD meeting and the December 17, 2018, General Membership meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial report through November 30, 2018, and the financial report through December 31, 2018. The reports were accepted, pending financial review. The financial reports will be attached to the file copy of the minutes. Pat presented a proposed budget for 2019. The Board discussed in detail items of expected income and expected expense. Pat stated the Spring Plant Sale, our largest source of income, would be held on April 27. Sandy Pence will coordinate with the vendors.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, reported that there are thirteen people interested in taking the next training class beginning February 12. Two additional prospects attended the MG training open house on January 3. One prospect wanted a day class and transferred to Chesterfield, and the other dropped out. Angelette stated that fees were increased this year to cover additional items. Angelette requested the HMGA pay the honorariums for the non-VCE speakers for the upcoming training class. A motion to pay the honorariums was made, seconded, discussed, and approved. Angelette indicated that the training class is "ready to get rolling." Angelette said that she had been working with Nancy Priddy at Toastmasters to give a talk on public speaking to the HMGs. If there is enough interest, a more in-depth class will be held one night a week for six weeks. Angelette said the optimum number of MGs for the class would be ten. Angelette checked with VT Extension regarding the purchase of new tablecloths. VT is in the process of redesigning the tablecloths. She suggested that if VT has not completed the redesign soon, the HMGA should purchase the tablecloths from another source. Angelette reminded the members that any and all contracts or requests for insurance MUST be forwarded to VT Extension through the Hanover Extension staff. Angelette reminded members of the "Working with Youth" training class on Saturday, January 26.

Wayne Bryant, Secretary, presented a gift card from the Board to Doris Gullotta, Immediate Past President, and thanked her for an excellent job as President of the HMGA for the previous two years.

Ginny Nicholas, HMGA Meetings, reported that HEFC has approved the dates for 2019 meetings. She has speakers lined up for two of the member-led meetings. She has many good speaker suggestions for meetings including weed identification, plant pathology, climate change, and weather effects. Ginny said she may work on arranging a follow-up to the ["Getting Ready for Gardening Season"](#) article posted on the hanovermastergardeners.org website by having a physical therapist or personal trainer speak at a meeting. She is also looking into having a HMGA trainee speak on "Working with Children with Disabilities." Pattie stated that Daniel Wright, Butterfly Co-curator at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, will be the speaker for the February 7, 2019, General Membership Meeting.

Emily Gianfortoni, Advanced MG/Land Care Steward, reported that the MGs have made their first home visit and a second visit is being arranged. Linda Hazelwood reported that the MG Land Care Stewards were contacted by Will Tucker with the Ashland Planning Office to review the landscape design for a project at the location of the Ashland Farmers Market. Sharon Logan, Brenda Burke, Pattie, Emily, and Linda participated in visiting the site, examining the existing landscape, reviewing the new landscape plan, and making recommendations for improvements. Pattie delivered two of the "Native Plants for Virginia's Capital Region" booklets to the Planning Department. Mr. Tucker was very pleased with the input from the HMGs.

Betty Jane Hughes, Communications, suggested that it was time for the HMGA to replace all the computers, computer programs, and audio/visual equipment. The Board discussed the suggestion and agreed that the equipment should be replaced. The Board also agreed that wireless microphones and a portable projector screen should be added to the list of equipment. Michelle Etheridge has volunteered to research pricing on the equipment. The Board will review the proposal after the costs are determined.

Becky Watson, Grants, was unavailable. Pattie reported for Becky that more publicity is needed to inform the public of the availability of funds for educational projects. Becky and Betty Jane have been emailing schools and other organizations. Becky would like to have additional volunteers join the Grants Committee. She also suggested that a MG volunteer whose expertise aligns with the grant project should be assigned as a resource who can follow and report on the progress of the project. Doris reported for Juanita on the progress of the HEFC Community Gardens. Nora Righter has advised Juanita that plans are in the works to build more raised boxes. Nora has requested a space at the HMGA plant sale to promote participation in the Community Garden. The Board agreed to provide the space.

Ed Wall, HGS, reported that the program is off to a slow start. There were only twenty people at the first three programs. There has not been much interest from the residents at Covenant Woods. Ed stated that there has been a good showing by the new interns. Michelle has offered some really good ideas to advertise the program. Angelette asked if it was time to change program topics and suggested we give the idea some thought. Ed thanked Ginny for seamlessly filling in for Emily at one of the programs.

Emily Gianfortoni, Help Desk, reported that things are slow. She has had a couple of requests for speakers which she referred to Cynthia Micklem at the Speakers Bureau. There are several committee openings that need volunteers. Tamara Van Dee has stepped down from Native Bees. It was suggested that Sharon Logan or Brenda Burke (who already does a presentation on bees) could fill the position. Betty Jane will send out a request for MG volunteers for the open positions, and Angelette will contact the interns.

Pattie reported for Buz Sawyer, Plant Clinic, that Buz will be getting the PC Committee together on February 4, 2019, for a planning meeting.

Doris, Scotchtown, reported that she was approached by Christine Baum at the December General Membership Meeting and was asked to contact the new Scotchtown coordinators. She met with the new coordinators and advised them of the role the HMGA volunteers had in the garden planning, maintenance, grounds up-keep, and educating the public as they tour the grounds. Doris has scheduled February 21 and 28 as clean-up days at Scotchtown, and they are listed on VMS. She advised the Board that she will be requesting money for plants, once the clean-up is done and she takes inventory of what is needed. Doris is scheduled to talk to the Kiwanis Club on March 4, 2019, about Scotchtown. There is also an event, "Textiles Day," scheduled at Scotchtown on June 8, 2019. Doris is updating the project proposal and will meet with her committee to review it.

Pattie reminded the Board that the next BOD meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2019, at the HEFC. The January meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Present: Pattie Bland, Ginny Nicholas, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Doris Gullotta, Linda Hazelwood, Emily Gianfortoni, Betty Jane Hughes, Lisa Willis, Angelette Pryor, Ed Wall, and Juanita Wrenn. The attendance sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bryant
Secretary