

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Hanover Evangelical Friends Church
June 17, 2019

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and confirmed a quorum.

The reading of the minutes of the May 20, 2019, BOD meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, presented the financial report through May 31, 2019. The report was accepted, pending financial review. The financial report will be attached to the file copy of the minutes.

Laura Maxey-Nay, VCE/AMR, stated that several 2019 Project Proposals have not been submitted for approval and the projects are on hold. Still outstanding include Solitary Bees, The Crossings, and Roots and Shoots. There does not seem to be enough interest in the Solitary Bees Program or in The Crossings. Members suggested Rhonda Searles, Paula Willoughby, and Susan Bennett as possible leaders for the Roots and Shoots program. Laura stated that she has been contacted by Hanover County, inquiring about the next MG training class. The County would like to include the information in the next issue of the Review. Pattie, Laura, and Angelette will discuss this at their meeting next week, but the next class will not be until next year. Laura stated that Chickahominy Falls, a 55+ Agri Community, has offered their facilities for the next training class. Laura reported that Rita Schalk, Unit Coordinator, wrote and submitted a Project Proposal for Stonewall Jackson Middle School. Laura will email the proposal to each member of the Board. Betty Jane Hughes put Virginia Meisner, the project partner, in contact with Beckey Watson to discuss applying for a grant for this project. A Master Gardener will be needed to lead the project. A Master Gardener coordinator will be needed for another school project proposed by intern Wanda Atkinson. MG volunteers are needed to accompany interns that are interested in volunteering for the Parks and Recreation Camp. Laura reported that Rita, who is retiring on June 30, will not be in the office very much as she uses up accumulated leave. Rita has requested her departure be low-key. Doris Gullotta volunteered to purchase a lilac and a card as a gift from the Master Gardeners for Rita's retirement. Laura will be taking over the duties of Unit Coordinator. Laura stated that Angelette Pryor, Trips and Tours, would like to request that the BOD pay the donation fee to The Quarry Gardens in Schuyler, Virginia for the trip planned on June 29. After a brief discussion, Buz Sawyer so moved. The motion was seconded by Val Kish and approved by the BOD.

Ginny Nicholas, HMGA Meetings, reported that Ed Wall will speak about propagation at the July 11 member-led meeting. Barb and Buz Sawyer will speak on "Building and Maintaining Ponds/Water Gardens" at the August 8 member-led meeting. The September General Membership meeting will be held at the Montpelier Parks and Recreation facility and will feature Dominic Carpin, who will discuss sustainable organic gardening and offer a tour of the delli Carpini Farm nearby. Beckey Watson will speak about "Birds in the Garden" at the Ashland Library on October 7. Richard Wood and Jane White will discuss "Garden Helpers in the Air and Underground - Bats and Worms" at the November 4 member-led meeting. Kathleen Wellington, from Green Springs MG Group, will speak on "Therapeutic Gardening" at the December 2 General Membership meeting.

Becky Watson, Grants, forwarded her report to Betty Jane, who presented it to the Board. Becky reported that the committee received an online application from the Arc of Hanover on May 14, 2019. As part of their ALLY (A Life Like Yours) initiative, they would like to put a wheelchair accessible raised bed in front of their office in Ashland to grow vegetables and flowers this summer. It will give individuals with disabilities a hands-on opportunity to learn about agriculture, elicit social responsibility, and teach job development skills. The budget will pay for a raised bed, soil, tools, plants, and seeds. The committee, including Mary Wagner, Betty Jane Hughes, Doris Gullotta, and Mike Little, all recommended funding the project. Becky volunteered to be the MG Partner for this project. Becky requested that the Hanover Board of Directors approve funding of \$500 for a Roddey Jones Memorial Grant to be awarded to the Arc of Hanover. Betty Jane so moved. The motion was seconded by Ginny Nicholas and approved by the Board.

Buz Sawyer, Plant Clinic, reminded the BOD that Henrico is hosting a “Bug Bizarre” on September 14, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Deep Run Recreation Center. Hanover MGs will have a support role (yet to be defined) in this event. This will be the same weekend as the LGBG plant sale where Henrico MGs normally have a PC and a booth. Hanover MGs have been asked to stand in for Henrico at the plant sale. Laura approved this volunteer opportunity and Buz will set up a schedule. The PC for June 8, at the Montpelier Center for the Arts, was canceled for lack of volunteers.

Pattie Bland, State Fair, reported that she is still working on the details with the DEQ for the Master Gardener booth to become an educational station on the trail that is being developed. Christy Brennan stated that the MG booth will have the same number of tickets as last year. Christy said that she already has lined up three MG units to volunteer this year. She said that the VMGA is offering an \$800 scholarship to MG College this year and applications should be submitted soon.

Betty Jane Hughes, Communications, stated that she will send out requests for MG volunteers to lead the projects that are still looking for coordinators, for MGs that are needed for projects to work with interns, and for volunteers for the State Fair. She reported that project and event coordinators are no longer getting email notifications when MGs and interns volunteer (or un-volunteer) for projects and events. This has the possibility of causing some problems, and she is trying to sort this out with VT. Betty Jane has added former MG Gail Rogers to the “Friends of the HMG” email list.

Doris Gullotta, Scotchtown, reported that there was good participation at the fifth MG workday there. Laura stated some interns are interested in volunteering at Scotchtown but should have an MG with them. Doris said that she normally schedules workdays Monday through Thursday, but she could schedule a workday on Friday and/or Saturday if another MG would volunteer along with the intern.

Pattie reminded the Board that the next BOD meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2019, at the HEFC. The June meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Present: Pattie Bland, Ginny Nicholas, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Doris Gullotta, Linda Hazelwood, Betty Jane Hughes, Christy Brennan, Buz Sawyer, Lisa Willis, Laura Maxey-Nay, Val Kish, and Jane White. The attendance sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wayne Bryant
Secretary**