

Hanover Master Gardener Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Taylor Complex Pavilion
October 18, 2021

Minutes

Pattie Bland, President, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., and confirmed a quorum.

The reading of the minutes of the September 20, 2021, Board of Directors meeting was waived. The minutes were approved as previously distributed.

Pat Reyes, Treasurer, provided the financial report through September. The report stated a balance in checking of \$3,298.44 and a CD balance of \$16,600.05. The report was accepted, pending review.

Angelette Pryor, Volunteer Coordinator, stated that the HVAC in the office is being replaced. Planned asbestos abatement will cause staff to work remotely. Watch for updates.

Doris Gullotta, Nominating Committee, reported that she would like to form the Nominating Committee to start meeting next week. She said this could be done with email, which has worked well in the past, or we can get Angelette to set up a Zoom call for us. This year the Association President, Vice President, and two of the voting members will be replaced. So far, Doris has only one person nominated for one of the voting positions. Please let her know soon so we can start the search process for replacements.

Val Kish, Help Desk, reported that the \$35 fee to submit a plant material sample to Virginia Tech for evaluation is now a reality. She stated that samples submitted to the Hanover Extension will first be evaluated by the MG Help Desk. If a diagnosis cannot be determined, Laura Maxey-Nay will evaluate the sample. Emily Gianfortoni has also offered to take any sample needing further evaluation to Mike Likins at Chesterfield County Extension. Once a sample has passed through this process without a diagnosis, the customer will be contacted prior to sending it to VT. Details are available in the office.

Pattie Bland reported that Brenda Reid, Trips and Tours, submitted a well-written report on the trip to Oak Spring Garden. That report is appended below. Doris Gullotta stated that Dawn at Scotchtown has offered to give the Hanover MGs a private tour. Doris will get with Brenda Reid. Doris also stated MG volunteers had a great day on Saturday, October 2, when Hanover County and Patrick Henry's Scotchtown partnered to host a 300th Anniversary Commemoration and Fall Festival. Visitors enjoyed live music, food trucks, a petting zoo, a selection of beverage options, and continuous Scotchtown tours. Michael Twitty, noted historian and author of the James Beard award winning book, *The Cooking Gene*, demonstrated hearth cooking and spoke about Afro-Atlantic culinary history. Historian and storyteller Valerie Davis was on hand to discuss the African American experience. Also in attendance were the Library of Virginia with information about genealogy, the Mariners Museum presenting Maritime African Kingdoms, and the Hanover Master Gardeners who had stations throughout the festival.

Additional reports and information distributed to the Board prior to this meeting are appended below.

Pattie discussed creating an MG survey to help with visioning and planning for 2022. She stated that it is a good idea to take stock of our organization, which we have done from time to time. Some items she suggested included more rotation of the Board, more (informal) mentorship to gain depth, and how to bring interns into the work of MGs. Pattie said that data and information is needed from the MGs, and volunteered to be part of the team to put together the questions. Betty Jane Hughes stated that she will try to locate the last survey done and provide the information to the Board. Some of the questions suggested for the survey included asking all MGs what activities they participated in during 2020, what/how they would change the activity or their participation, what would encourage them to participate in more activities, and how to put fun into activities and meetings. Pattie stated that she will work with the Board to put together a “pre-survey” by the next Board of Directors meeting.

Pattie thanked Katrina Hart for taking the lead on the HGS activity. Pattie stated that there are lots of interesting topics yet to be presented.

Pattie reminded everyone that there will be an HMGA continuing education opportunity, via Zoom, on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Lisa Ferrell, Arborist, the driving force behind the creation of the Chesterfield County Arboretum, a place that “speaks for the trees.” Lisa will discuss how the arboretum is used to increase canopy coverage, provide an educational experience for employees and citizens on the benefit of trees and plants, improve water quality, and decrease the area of managed turf. The next BOD meeting will be on November 15, 2021. There will be an HMGA meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. The HMGA General Membership meeting will be on Monday, December 13, 2021, via Zoom starting at 6:30 p.m. The October 18, 2021, meeting of the HMGA Board of Directors was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Present: Pattie Bland, Annette Schanz, Pat Reyes, Wayne Bryant, Linda Hazelwood, Betty Jane Hughes, Julie Givler, Lisa Willis, Jane White, Doris Gullotta, Angelette Pryor, Val Kish, Katrina Hart, and Juanita Wrenn. The attendance sheet will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bryant
Secretary



HMGA Reports
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