**October 8, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: President Joyce Schlote

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Executive Board Members:

President: Joyce Schlote

Vice President: Celia Johnson

Secretary: Joanne Crouch (absent)

Treasurer: Vickie Richter

Directors at Large:

Barbara Shippie

Jackie Siler (absent)

Bob James

HORTICULTURAL ADVISOR: Hari Stone (absent)

PLANT SALES COMMITTEE CHAIR: Ann Haines

SEMINARS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

GUESTS: Garden Leads: Charles Reiter (Heritage Garden), Betsi Kurzawski, Louis Prowell (Raab Park), Marjie Vigal, Ann Elberson (Blueberry Park). Anna Smith Gardens Leads (absent).

CONSENT AGENDA: Call for the vote of items as presented. September minutes with noted corrections. All ACCEPTED.

GUEST SPEAKER: N/A

GARDEN LEAD REPORTS::

**Anna Smith Garden**: The biggest accomplishment was maintaining the Martha & Mary Kids garden and crafts program, and continuation of the regular program of cultivation by MG’s. The biggest challenge is to develop a better working relationship with the Kitsap Parks Department. The number of volunteers at the garden is low based on the number (nearly 50) of raised beds and the variety of cultivation challenges. We may be in need of dedicated pruning specialists as our dedicated specialists retire. Discussion: Contact the Peninsula Fruit Club who can provide training to volunteers. Blueberry Park has a volunteer from the club.

**Heritage Gardens**: The most rewarding accomplishment was the increase to over 1000 lbs. in organic produce donated to the Central Kitsap Food Bank. Also accomplished was the partial refurbishing and maintenance of the irrigation system, and the dedication of gardeners who volunteered between workdays was a factor in making the garden successful. One of our primary challenges is rebuilding a

more permanent and durable irrigation system which is complicated by the anticipation of changes in the fairground with the new administration. Also of concern is how the potential changes might affect the destiny of the log cabin and maintenance of corral fencing at the gardens. Our biggest challenge is working with the Kitsap County Fair administration to address our potential for changes as discussed above and to consider providing a space for the heritage Garden classes under the roof of the Presidents Hall to facilitate exposure and accommodate the number of interested fair goers. Our goal is to provide a more visible, accessible teaching and learning venue for visitors to the fairgrounds in organic gardening techniques. Discussion: Could the learning classes be held in the President’s Hall? Contact Hari in how to approach Kitsap County Fair administration; or see if Hari would prefer working directly with them. Gardening day weekly for volunteers which is composed of 2 hour session including ½ hour education. There is no publicized open day available for communicating with the public other than during the Kitsap Fair.

**Blueberry Park**: Added a Pollinator Hotel to the Pollinator Garden area. The various types and styles are filled with natural materials to encourage and support the life cycles of different pollinators. It is located at the edge of Pollinator Garden, so adds more habitat to the established food source plants. The biggest challenge is maintaining guidance for rookies when the leads time and focus is pulled elsewhere. There is vandalism of plants pilfered or damaged and evidence of homeless camping behind the shed. The Bremerton police monitor the park; the Parks Department have been advised. As the park and gardens are quite dark at night, perhaps adding a motion-sensor controlled solar lights would deter unwanted activity? We would like to see a coordinated effort to communicate between gardens. Discussion: To visit each garden periodically to share ideas. Add motion light detector. Possibly utilize the MG extension site to communicate between gardens and the board. The garden leads will communicate with Hari to go forward.

**Raab Park Youth Garden**: Adjusting to the physical changes to the garden when the city of Poulsbo installed a road to the sewer system that removed a 30 ft. by 50 ft. piece of the garden. Both the city Public Works and Poulsbo Park & Recreation Departments were extremely helpful in rebuilding the garden. The installation of irrigation throughout all the beds definitely helped in produce yield. The biggest challenges: Lack of regular garden party attendance in the summer; predation by wild life and upkeep of planting beds and sheds. Discussion: How can we encourage more participation in hours? There are required garden hours for Rookies not for Certified MG’s

**Additional Comments with regard to Dream List**

How could we have access to electricity in the garden shed? RAAB electricity – through the city – possibly provide shared funding (MG Foundation question) winter no light in the sheds.

Recommend to talk to Anna Smith Garden lead regarding their electricity process and installation.

Dedicated fruit specialists.

Pictures of extra tools in garden and can be provided to garden leads.

Craft and meeting tables available.

In-house tool sharpeners.

CELIA: Great Give Funds: Do the leads want this ear marked for specific items. What suits the needs? The leads felt it wasn’t necessary.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Assets Listings: Blueberry and RAAB inventory is still outstanding and reminded to submit by October 31, 2019.

Reserve Accounts: Moved to November meeting.

Fall Seminar Update: Scheduled for Saturday October 12th 10-2 p.m. Attendees can bring a bag lunch or purchase a $5 Fresh and Fit lunch offered by Subway.

MOA update: Laura Ryser, Director of WSU Kitsap County Extension, said the review is in process.

Tag Sale: MG Foundation does not have the manpower at this time to facility or the storage to handle this sale.

Plant Sale: Ann requested to be added to the agenda each month.

Clarification of the timeline for bookmarks, posters and ads for WestSound Home & Garden: For the clinic boxes mid-March; early timeline is late January 2020. Ann will be the contact person for anything related to sponsorship.

Board Openings 2020: Committee has meet twice and continues their efforts to interview potential members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

December meeting time and place: Moved to discuss at November meeting.

Restaurant Fundraiser event: Decided not to participate in this event.

Mardi Gras Float: $1000 guaranteed to each 501(c) organization that participates with a float offered through Clearwater Casino. Deadline to apply is October 31st and completed float by February 2020. Information will be provided to garden leads to pursue.

Treasurer: Irrigation money for this year cannot go into new year. Heritage did the best in irrigation money. All reimbursements must be in by October 31st. A drafted budget is needed by December to submit and approved for January 2020. Monies not used goes back into the budgeted funds for next year. The revised reimbursement form (9/18/2018) is available on kitsapgarden.org.

Announcements: MG Tri-County meeting is scheduled for October 21st at 1 p.m. and held at WSU extension office, Port Hadlock.

COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee: N/A

Audit Committee: N/A

Finance Committee: N/A

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Plant Salvage Committee: N/A

OTHER BUSINESS: N/A

Motion to adjourn Meeting and accepted.