

## N.E.W. Master Gardeners board Meeting

March 13, 2024 6:05 pm

### Virtual Meeting Minutes

*Present:* Bruce LaSota, Megan Fierst, Kate Fix, Edie Brandt, Don Buntman, Jennifer Classon, Bernie Jansen, Paula King, Terri Lewis, Jim Radey, Sherrill Revolinski, Shirley Triest-Robertson, Melissa Wass, Annette Weissbach

*Absent:* Eric Kropp , Nancy Whitfield

*Guests:* Nancy Fictum , Mary Sprangers

1. Bruce LaSota called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm
2. Project Committee Report given by Nancy Fictum (Committee Chair)
  - Meet & Mingle event 2/18/2024 was well attended and gave opportunities for project introductions and sign up, round table discussions by project leaders and project leadership training.
  - There have been 3 new project requests
    - Resch Expo site (owned by Brown County)-asking for spring cleanup around the perimeter of the building and planting of 25 large planters. Nancy F. presented the project assessment details to the board, and it does meet the project criteria. The Resch would like a long term commitment, but agreed to it being taken on as a flash project on a trial basis. Motion to approve the project was made by Shirley Triest-Robertson, seconded by Bernie Jansen, motion carried. Nancy F. will clarify a few more questions about the scope of the project and get the project sign up out to the membership.
    - Rooted In Inc. (non-profit that wants to grow food to make shelf stable meals donated to various food pantries in Green Bay). Mary Sprangers presented the project assessment that she did for the site at a Brown County Community Garden plot on Church Rd. The director of Rooted In is willing to be the project leader but is looking for master gardener involvement in gardening, maintenance and education. Board members had more questions for Mary S. to get clarification on but it was decided that this project meets the criteria also. Shirley Triest-Robertson mad a motion to approve the Rooted In project, Paula King seconded the motion and the motion carried. This will also be publicized to the membership for project sign up.
    - DePere School request for assistance on a project at Legion park with students – site assessment has not been scheduled.
3. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved: Motion to approve made by Annette Weissbach and seconded by Don Buntman.
4. Treasurer's Report–Board members had the most current copy in their document package. There have been no changes since the January 2024 meeting. Board members had no comments or questions.

5. WIMGA Presidents Meeting Report–Megan Fierst attended and reported that if Onboarding Lite was done in 2022 or 2023, it does not have to be done this year. We do need to log into the ORS system to allow sharing of our volunteer info if we want our local organization to have access to that information. Honored status is still on hold at the state level. Because of declining numbers of master gardeners statewide, associate membership was of much discussion.
6. Membership Committee report by Kate Fix
  - Membership registration- 74 members
    - 6 Honorary members (undecided about handling this)
    - 3 new members
    - 2 still need to pay dues

Seven members need to fill out a Brown County volunteer form. This form needs to be filled out once every 3 years.

  - Associate Membership Proposal–Kate F. and the membership committee have put together a detailed proposal to create this membership as a feeder program for the NEWMGA. Their participation roles are outlined and encouragement to complete the Foundations Course to become a certified Master Gardener are included. Board members had many suggestions to further define the creation of an associate membership. It is requested that they email those and any others not brought up at the meeting, to Kate Fix. The ByLaws also need to be addressed before this position can be created and implemented, and currently ByLaw changes can not be presented and approved by the membership till the fall meeting. The Board will also take the opportunity to introduce the associate membership idea to the general membership at the April 13, 2024 Spring Meeting. Members will be encouraged to “post” their reactions/ideas at the meeting.
7. Endowment Report by Annette Weissbach–Annette provided a document outlining the history of the Unrestricted Fund and the Scholarship (Restricted)Fund. Currently there is \$235,525 in the Unrestricted Fund, and not much of that has been spent since the \$22,000 used to build the greenhouse at the former Extension site in Bellevue. The criteria for what this money is to be used for is fairly liberal–horticultural education or promoting horticulture in the Green Bay area. After several suggestions were made, it was decided to create an ad hoc committee to develop guidelines for use of the funds. Annette Weissbach, Shirley Triest-Robertson and Terri Lewis volunteered to be on this committee. Eric Kropp will be asked to join them.
8. Communication Report by Paula King (this was made via email as we needed to conclude the meeting by 8pm). Facebook has 503 members, the website calendar is updated with any new items and an Instagram account has been created. Communications is working on criteria for the Eblast (Fonts, formatting to make it more readable). Also brainstorming on ways to encourage members to join committees.
9. Community Outreach report via email by Bruce LaSota–please see added page
10. Other New Business
  - Board member replacement–it was decided that a replacement would not be sought until this fall
11. Motion to adjourn at 7:50pm was made by Paula King, seconded by Megan Fierst and the motion carried.

Community Outreach Committee  
Status Report: March, 2024 by Bruce LaSota

At this time the Outreach Committee members are Lynn Clark, Steve Herro, Bruce LaSota, Diane Warpinski and Cindy Ziolkowski. **We are looking for additional members.** Our next meeting is Monday March 25.

We are guided by three major goals:

1. Promote an interest in horticulture by providing information and learning opportunities
2. Create enough of an interest in people we meet to encourage them to join our group
3. Maintain a positive image of NEWMGA

### **Speakers Bureau**

24 members responded to the interest survey. 8 members are willing to join the Speakers Bureau.

Lynn Clark and Shirley Triest-Robertson have sifted through our PowerPoint AV programs to match topics with the Speakers' interest.

We will be able to give an update on this outreach program at our April 13th meeting.

### **Mongin Garden Series**

1. Our March 9th program on Scionwood Grafting was well-received by those who attended. Chris Reitmeyer was an excellent presenter. We've asked him to consider returning next winter.

Problem: 28 people registered for this program. 16 attended. We are evaluating the cause of the drop-off.

2. Our **next workshop will be March 23 at STEM**. Jerry Landwehr will conduct a pruning workshop using the bushes and trees on STEM grounds as our laboratory. Signup links are on our Facebook, Website and E-Blast. This workshop is open to members and non-members (\$5 cash).

3. Part of our **April 13 Spring Kickoff** will be a presentation by **Mark Konlock**, Horticulturist at GBBG. Mark has several topics he's considering. We will work with him to make a selection so that it can also be used toward the MG Education Hours requirement.

4. At the Spring Kickoff we will announce the day and time for **Sara Pingel's** talk on planning and maintaining shade gardens. It will be held at GBBG.

### **Community Presence**

STEM Family Day April 27th

We will **not** be in attendance at **Breakfast on the Farm**. We have offered the organizers our work in planting/tending sunflowers. Someone from their committee would need to pick up and handout these plants.

We are evaluating the merits of a booth at either Saturday Downtown Farmers Market or Thursday Military Farmers Market.

If you have reactions, suggestions or questions, please reach out to any committee member.

**\*\*\*\*Next Board meeting: May 8, 2024 IN PERSON Rm 131 STEM\*\*\*\***