

MCGA Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

7 PM at Panera - Redmond

Meeting Facilitator: Robin Barnes - President

Called to order: 7:00 PM

Present: Kirby Cartwright, John Talbert, Hannah Kimball, Michelle Raymond Mary Lou Colwell. Tiffany King – arrived at 8 PM.

Guests in attendance: Ruth Robertson

Approve Proposed Schedule:

- John motion and Kirby 2nd, unanimously passes.

Review of Board Minutes:

- September Board Minutes: Kirby motion and John 2nd, unanimously passes.

Administrative Business:

- Registrar: Robin reported that we are awaiting final hours reporting to determine which gardeners would not finish their hours. Per information provided by Bev; A14, H24, H25 and Y3 are now part of the registrar's pool. Y3 will transfer to Sherry Lang, (not sure if she is a current member or new member). The Board had previously voted to remove B13 but the plot is not yet available. The gardener has not yet acknowledged that he's been removed. This will most likely be determined when the final hours are computed, for lack of service hours completion.
- Treasurer Report: Tiffany reported that the 2018 books are ready to close when the water bill is received, November 15. Sabrina Gaughran will take over the Treasury role beginning in 2019. Board unanimously agreed via email vote to appoint her to the position. It was brought to our attention that 2015 and 2016 taxes have not been paid. Judith Andrews from APEX Law was suggested for consultation. There was a motion by Kirby and 2nd by John and passed unanimously to allow for an undetermined budget (which is a percentage of what we need to pay) in order to

hire a tax professional. John shared information about Judith Andrews on how to start a non-profit. This is how Judith Andrews' name came up for discussion.

Planning & Status Reports:

- Harvest/Election/Potluck Report: No final produce report as tallies have not been received from Jack.
- Final Work Party Goals: Final work party scheduled for Saturday, October 20 from 1-4 PM. Short discussion about putting the FB garden to bed and there is still some general grounds maintenance that needs to be done and getting final service hours completed.

Task Report

- Row Monitor Review: The tallies are as follows:
 - 1st notice: 22 gardeners received, 17 of which resolved their issues. Five gardeners had persistent issues. Board refused to renew 1 gardener this year.

Ruth opened the discussion stating that she felt the program's purpose should be to help gardeners to succeed rather than to punish them. Ruth would be happy to continue with the program if the focus is on mentoring, she would not like to continue if the program is primarily punitive.

- Change the name to "Mentoring Program" or something that implies support.
- Cutting back to two monitors with limited duties.
 - Making quick rounds 1-2 times per month.
 - Reporting via email to all Board members prior to regularly Board meetings. This would give time to review and discuss before the monthly meetings.
 - Primary focus on cultivation deadline, invasive weeds per King County Concessionaire Agreement, use of strictly organic materials.
- Letters to gardeners should make the point as to what needs to be done and make expectations clear.

- Templates to be developed with impersonal verbiage rather than communicating a sense of personal attack.
- Expectations need to be defined by Board and clearly communicated to gardener.
- Letters to be sent by Board not by committee
- Discussed an informal mentoring program for gardeners early in the season, this is not be confused with the Row Monitor Program.

Suggestions:

- Program entirely voluntary for both new gardeners and mentors.
 - More discussion as to hours if any would be earned by mentors.
- Mentors could include both Master Gardeners and other experienced gardeners willing to share their knowledge. Thought would be to not take more that a couple of hours in total per case.
- Mentors would not do any “work” in the garden they are mentoring.
- Topics could include sun directions throughout the day, what to plant when, how to start off by being weed free and maintaining throughout the season, being a good neighbor.

Old Business:

- All items were tabled until November meeting:
 - Website update
 - Fund raising and finance strategies
 - Monarch butterfly study report
 - Grow a row bee project

New Business:

- All items were tabled until November meeting:
 - Mentoring community garden in Kent

- Relationship with KCMGF

Adjournment – 8:50 PM – no motion was made, Robin called for a motion and response was met with resounding acclamation of all present.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted.

Next meeting: November 28, 2018 at 7 PM – King County Library - Redmond