

# Master Gardeners of Bergen County Board of Directors Minutes for

February 25, 2014

Meeting was called to order by President Cooper at 5:10 pm

Present at the meeting: Joseph Cooper, Suzanne Danzig, Fran Langendoen, Serpil Leveen, Hank Annunziata, Donna Karpel, Melissa Broder, Sissel Castelli, Leslie Maltz, Sally Ditton, John Walters, Barbara Johansson, Risa Marlen, Lucy Malka

## Previous Minutes:

November 20<sup>th</sup> and January 28<sup>th</sup> minutes approved with corrections.

## Treasurer's Report:

Balance as of January 29, 2014.....\$14,266.66  
Balance as of February 25, 2014.....\$13,841.93  
Outstanding gift of \$200 to be issued Virginia Korteweg Children's Garden NJBG

## President's Report:

Joseph reported our volunteer activity set a new record of over 9,000 hours. A detailed report will be presented at the next meeting.

Joseph relayed Tracey's suggestion to give Hank a budget of \$50-100 for refreshments for the upcoming joint Passaic/Bergen MG meeting on April 22. The guest speaker will be Carol Gracie, "Natural History of Spring Wildflowers". We will be looking for a rough count from the Passaic organization.

**Motion:** Joseph Cooper made a motion to provide a budget of \$50-\$100 to purchase refreshments for April MG meeting, seconded by Suzanne Danzig members unanimously approved.

Newly appointed Site Coordinator, Karen Pennell was not present therefore Joseph confirmed that the first meeting will take place on March 21<sup>st</sup> at McFaul Environmental Center at 10:00.

Discussion to switch our 2015 MG meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month to enable Passaic MG the option to attend our meetings was discussed; however there appear to be too many conflicts, ie, Garden Club meetings. This will require further discussion and research.

## Committee Reports:

**Membership:** Cliff will be printing directory shortly looking for renewals to be completed and sent in. There was a discussion about creating an electronic directory/print on demand to cut down on the cost of production, approximately \$300. Perhaps charge a fee for a hard copy. This would have to be accessed using password for security and privacy issues. Further discussion is required and suggested we bring it up again at the May board meeting.

**Trips and Tours:** Risa has scheduled the first trip of the year on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to Leonard J Bucks Garden in Far Hills, NJ. The cost will be \$5 per person for a guided tour. Future trips to Brooklyn Botanical garden and rooftop gardens are in the works among others.

**Garden Club Liaison:** "Garden Club Tea" is schedule for May 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-9. This will take place in room 3D of the County Building. This is an opportunity to share resourses.

**Newsletter:** There is a meeting scheduled for Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> . The Class Liaison was added to the committee to keep current class members informed and involved and will keep Joel current on future speakers.

**New Business:**

**Volunteer Travel Time:** Joseph has research the counting of travel time for volunteers to sites and events. Rutgers State Rep. Nick Polanin confirmed the travel time can count as long as it is over the required 25 hours required for MG yearly certification. Other counties including Passaic allow travel time to be counted as well. There was discussion about capping the travel time to one hour roundtrip. No resolution as to how to tract the time so the topic will be brought up again and our next meeting.

**School Garden Program:** A committee should be set up to establish guidelines so that it can sustain itself. This program should be on a consulting basis with adults and staff supervising the students. Janet Austin and Laura DeFlora were suggested committee members. West Middle School in Paramus is looking for assistance.

**Bergen County Teaching Farm:** MEVO (Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization) Asked RCE and MG of BC to partner in an endeavour to develop a section of the Saddle River County Park in Fairlawn. The County administrators' office and the Bergen County Parks Department have given us the green light to move forward on the project. Ultimately we are looking to start with a one acre teaching garden next to Sheridan Field. Programs would include School Programs, Hort Therapy Programs, Workshops, etc. The first kick off meeting will be held at Ramapo College on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Joseph Cooper and John Walters will represent MG of BC.

**MG Sites:** Discussion of current MG sites and potential new sights.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.