

Polk County Master Gardeners Steering Committee Meeting
January 16, 2020

The Polk County Master Gardeners met at the Polk County Extension Office. Members present were: Chair, Christine Barker, Chair-Elect Marietta Rives, Treasurer, Stephanie McAdam, Assistant Treasurer, Dick Chavannes, Bob Helvey, Kent Freise, Mary Poulter, Paul Satre, Jen Firzlaff, Jean Roe, Joyce Carle, Patrick Schmitt, Marialice Fecht, Mary Rolfes, Rhonda Murphy, Isabella Hurless-Banks, Charlene Butz, Sherri Soich, Matt Dore, Judy Goshorn, Ruth Doxon, Judi Pierick and ISU Extension Office Staff: Paul Gibbons and Kalsa Parker-Browning.

Introductions were given.

Motion by Stephanie McAdams, second by Isabella Hurless-Banks to accept minutes from November Steering Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Call for Business not on the agenda by Christine Barker. No non-agenda business.

Financial report provided by Treasurer, Stephanie McAdams. Motion to accept Financial report by Kent Friese, second by Sherri Soich. Motion carried.

Update from MG Program Coordinator: Kalsa Parker-Browning.

Kalsa covered current details of the now active online directory, mentioning it has been accessed over 150 times by members. Kalsa also discussed Cybiz survey updates and mentioned the pending February 6th meeting. CyBiz survey covered volunteer retention and engagement as well as feedback regarding greenhouse location and volunteer participation. When asked how CyBiz was to work with, Kalsa reported a positive experience, very friendly staff at CyBiz.

Old Business: Christine related that the past suggestion of a symposium as a fundraiser has been discarded. There was further discussion regarding a possible Spring plant sale. Location undetermined. Bob Helvey reported that Central Iowa Greenhouse declined renting their "for sale" facility to the Master Gardeners but there is a possibility that a future buyer of the Greenhouse would be willing to do so. Further inquiries will be made by Bob as the sale of the property has yet to occur. Bob explained Polk county, Chautauqua activity/construction has slowed down for the winter season. Also mentioned was potential consultant, Doctor Gladon has had surgery and is off work recovering.

New Business: Ambassadors Rhonda Murphy and Mary Rolfes reported a number of favorable responses (6) to their Green Thumb entry. Kalsa also provided updates on the Garden Tour Chair position, recently vacated and needing a replacement. She invited any individuals present to express interest/volunteer or if they had a person in mind who might be interested, to contact them. Also there was some discussion regarding the status of the pending 2020 Garden tour. The garden sites are selected but much is still to be organized. Yet to accomplish is: Volunteer recruiting, advertising/marketing, finding Corporate sponsors, etc. Grant writing was also discussed. How to succeed at grant writing...who offers grants, etc. Emma volunteered to assist in this area.

Motion by Rhonda Murphy to adjourn, second by Judi Pierick