

Unofficial Minutes of the May 3, 2014 Meeting
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.
College Station, Texas

Secretary, Nicky Maddams

The following offers were present:

President Dick Coupe; 1st Vice President Donna Hagar; 2nd Vice President Mary Means; Secretary Nicky Maddams; Treasurer Doug Richards; and Past President Ginger Bason.

Directors/Alternates and Committee members from the following associations were present:

Austin/Colorado/Fayette/Washington, Bell, Bexar, Brazos, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector/Midland, Fort Bend, Grimes, Guadalupe, Henderson, Hood, Jefferson, Johnson, Leon, McCulloch, McLennan, Milam, Montgomery, Parker, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Tom Green, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wichita, Williamson, and Wood. Counties participating via LYNC included: Wichita and Nueces Counties.

Guests from the following associations also attended:

Bell, Dallas, Guadalupe, McLellan and Tarrant.

Call to Order:

President Dick Coupe called the meeting to order at 12:31pm by welcoming Directors, Alternates and guests in attendance, especially those attending for the first time.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation and pledge were led by Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County.

Introduction of Speaker:

President Coupe introduced Kay Crews, a professional registered parliamentarian who spoke on Robert's Rules of Order. A copy of her presentation may be found online at <http://dallasparliamentarian.com/resources/Conducting+a+Business+Meeting.pdf>.

Approval of Minutes:

President Coupe asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the February 1, 2014, posted on the TMGA website. As there were none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Doug Richards, Hood County, advised six counties have yet to pay their dues; 79 have paid. Current balance in our account is \$32,774.12. Financial documents are always current and available online.

Standing Committee Reports:

By-Laws: Donna Hagar, Somervell County presented proposed bylaw changes to the Executive Committee at their meeting on May 2nd. The By-Law committee will present changes at the Directors Meeting in September. Voting will occur at December's Directors Meeting.

Awards: Lisa Nixon, Bexar County, provided a report regarding the number of entries for each size group. The deadlines established during the meeting were:

June 1, 2014 – have the 2014 Handbook available to Executive Committee for review

July 1, 2014 – release date of handbook and forms to the associations

January 15, 2015 – deadline for 2014 awards submissions

All entries will be made available on the website in the interest of sharing ideas with fellow associations. Lisa provided a written report to all members.

Conference Planning:

Jim Ewoldsen, Collin County emphasized that there are a number of counties participating together in the planning. The venue at Myers Park will hold a large number of people, both indoors and out. Recreational vehicles can park right on the grounds.

Collin County's bid to host the 2016 Conference on May 17-19 of that year was approved by those present. Homer Babbitt, Parker County, made the motion, which was seconded by Donna Hagar, Somervell County. Homer indicated though we have bids two years out, it is time for a county to consider a bid for the 2017 conference and beyond.

Gary Slanga, Bell County, provided updates on the 2015 Conference, to be held April 16-18, 2015. Speakers are lined up and Gary handed out an information card. Collin County emphasized that there are a number of counties participating together in the planning. The venue will hold a very large number of people, both indoors and out. Recreational vehicles can park right on the grounds.

Barbara Porsch of the Permian Basin Master Gardeners said they are having issues with the website but it will be running soon. Registration will begin in June; the Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday afternoon, September 25. Three of the speakers are: Dr. Steele, Jayla Fry and Doug Welsh.

Newsletter: Nicky Maddams, Grimes County, listed the next counties to be featured in the newsletter. Cherokee in June, Collin in July, Comal in August, Concho Valley in September, Cooke in October (provided dues are paid), Cypress Basin in November and Dallas in December.

Outreach: Eleanor Tuck, Tarrant County, reported several counties have not submitted their charters. Eleanor spoke to the directors present from those counties and her committee is contacting the others. The County Extension Agents need to submit the charter to Jayla Fry.

Tax: Wayne Rhoden, Williamson County, advised two new counties are under the Texas Master Gardener Association 501(3)c umbrella; those counties being Waller and Van Zandt.

Website: Webmaster Ron Williford, Comal County, did not have a report.

Audit: A report was not required nor presented.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business was presented.

New Business:

Nominating Chair Ginger Bason, Tarrant County, is seeking nominations for the 2015 Executive Committee, particularly the office of Treasurer. Candidate must have knowledge of Quicken.

State Master Gardener Coordinator Update:

Jayla Fry stressed she is there for the Master Gardeners and also for the agents. She impressed upon the directors how much she appreciates them, and how much she knows the agents appreciate their volunteers. If there are issues that arise within an association, she needs to be made aware so that the situation may be dealt with.

Bexar County provided orchids for the Executive Committee, guest speaker and for raffle. Black pearl peppers were provided by Victoria County and raffled off.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicky Maddams, Secretary, TMGA