

Unofficial Minutes

Texas Master Gardener Association

Board of Directors Meeting

December 3, 2016

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Officers Present – President Mary Means, 1st Vice President Peggy Rogers, 2nd Vice President Nicky Maddams, Treasurer Dale Powell and Secretary Pat Allen.

Officers and Directors/Alternates from the following counties were present:

Bastrop/Caldwell, Bell, Bexar, Brazos, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ector Midland, Galveston, Grimes, Guadalupe, Henderson, Hood, Kerr/Kendall/Gillespie/Bandera, McLennan, Milam, Montgomery, Nueces, Parker, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Travis, Victoria, Waller, Williamson, and Wood.

Call to Order – President Mary Means of Collin County called meeting to order at 12:30 pm

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance were led by Wayne Rhoden of Williamson County

Minutes – Pat Allen

- Minutes were approved as posted in TMGA Website with one correction ----Quilt Raffle amount was \$874.66 donated to the Gardens Texas A&M.

Treasurer Report – Dale Powell of Denton County

- Reported balance of \$43,255.00
- Audit Committee Report – Jeanne Barker and committee found that all financial records had been completed correctly and in a timely manner. The 2017 Budget had been prepared and approved. All records were in order and ready to be passed on to the incoming 2017 Treasurer.

The Gardens at Texas A&M – Donna Hagar

- Donna accepted donations from Wood and Fannin counties, a second donation from Brazos County, and a second installment on pledge from Tarrant County.
- Not present to receive certificates for their donations were Hidalgo, Ellis, Aransas, and San Patricio counties. Those will be mailed to each county. Current balance of \$136,000.00 has been donated to The Gardens thus far.

Program – Joseph Johnson of Texas A&M University (class of '88) and new director of The Gardens at Texas A&M

- Background – B.S. in Horticulture from Texas A&M; Certified Nurseryman; Director of gardens at M.D. Anderson in Houston; most recently director of the gardens at Shangri-La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange, TX.
- Joseph Johnson was hired to oversee the Gardens of Texas A&M. The Board of Regents want gardens that will rival those of other university gardens in the SEC. Phase I (7 acres of Teaching Gardens) is well on its way with funding from lead donors Amy and Tim Leech as well as many other donors. The area is packed with gardens such as Butterfly and Bee, Bird, Texas Super Stars, Fruit and Vegetable, Mexican Heritage, German Heritage, Earth-Kind, Landscape Demonstration and Rain. There will also be a vineyard, an outdoor classroom close to the Earth-Kind Garden, and other event areas such as an overlook featuring a Wildflower Meadow, a Pavilion with catering facilities, and lawn areas for weddings or other functions. In the long term are potential programs and partnerships such as having landscape classes, Junior Master Gardener Programs, or working with Howdy Farms. If all goes as planned, Phase I of The Gardens should be ready to open by spring 2018, perfect timing for 2018 TMGA State Conference. Phase II of planning and beginning the donor drive should take place in about a year. Progress of The Gardens will possibly be available on the website with time lapse cameras (gardens.tamu.edu).
Contact info: joseph.johnson@ag.tamu.edu

Break – Activity for meeting other Master Gardeners from around the state

Upcoming Conferences

- 2017 – Nicky Maddams
Final plans are still being worked out with the Galveston Master Gardeners who are hosting the Awards Banquet on Monday at 12 noon. City tours, plant sale and vendors will be available. Reduced rates of \$159 will be available for the Moody Gardens Hotel, free parking and shuttle service to and from the ship will also be available. Additional attractions will be offered at reduced rates as well. There will be “priority disembarkation” for our Master Gardeners – first to get off ship on Monday morning and first on the shuttles to get over to Moody Gardens for the Awards Banquet. Galveston Master Gardeners are working hard to make this a memorable experience following the cruise for all our state conference attendees, as well as for those Master Gardeners who do not wish to cruise but would like to attend the Awards Banquet, tours, plant sale, etc. Check the website for up-to-date attractions, registration for banquet and tours, etc. Possibilities are tour and shop The Strand in the Historic District, Salt Water Fishing, Golf, tour of the Galveston Demonstration Gardens, tours of historic homes, 1894 Opera House, and Historic Cemetery on Broadway.
- 2018 – Nicky Maddams
The conference will be April 4th, 5th, & 6th in College Station on A&M campus. The conference will honor the “Past, Present and Future” of Texas Master Gardeners. Phase I of the Gardens will hopefully be ready to open and it is the 40th anniversary for Texas Master Gardeners. The

Hilton will be the host hotel and has been very generous in helping to promote this state conference.

- 2019-2020 – Nicky Maddams

The 2019 Conference bids will be presented at the February meeting. So far Victoria is only county bidding for that spot. It's too early to talk about the 2020 Conference.

Committee Reports:

- **Awards Committee** – Peggy Rogers

Committee is in place and ready to work on the awards. Peggy cautioned that counties need to carefully read information before submitting paperwork as there have been new changes that must be adhered to in order to even be considered for an award. Awards will be ready for the 2017 Awards Banquet in Galveston following the cruise.

- **Conference Planning Committee** -- Barbara Porsch

Barbara reported that her job has been really easy as she has not had to hunt and persuade counties to host state conferences. Bids for the 2019 State Conference will be presented at the February meeting. At this time Victoria County has their name in the hat. Waco, McLennan Co., has expressed interest for a future conference.

- **Southern Region Conference** -- Nicky Maddams

Nicky thanked Tarrant County for hosting the Southern Region Conference. It was smaller than expected but many attendees thought that it was one of the best conferences ever.

Newsletter and Website – Nicky Maddams

- Nicky urged all members to please read the newsletter and check on the website periodically for important information on upcoming events.
- Latest news from Jane Bowman of Williamson County - Central Texas Gardener has filmed and will be featuring the Williamson County Gardens in an upcoming PBS segment. Check local listing for date and time.

Outreach – Eleanor Tuck

- Eleanor is retiring from her position and thanked her committee members for their dedication and help in always getting the job done. She stressed that the committee will be in good hands under the lead of Sharon Barrett from Henderson County. She also noted that counties needed to get their information in on time which will make less work for the committee.

Tax Advisory – Wayne Rhoden

- Wayne makes sure that all counties are up to date with current tax rules regarding 501(c)3 status. He reported that all 58 counties are legal and necessary paperwork has been filed with the IRS. He is always available to answer questions regarding money and taxes.

Old Business - none

New Business

- Question from the floor about possibly changing the December meeting to a November date. Jayla Fry, TMGA Coordinator, answered that dates have already been set for this next year, but could possibly be considered in the future.
- Jayla Fry again thanked Tarrant County for the wonderful job they did in hosting the Southern Region Conference.
- Jayla also urged members to sign up for the 2017 TMGA conference even if they are not doing the Cruise. She asked for help in promoting all state business and stressed the importance of all members keeping informed at the county and state level.

Nominating Committee – Donna Hagar

- Donna presided over the Election of Executive Committee Officers for 2017
President – Peggy Rogers
1st Vice-President – Nicky Maddams
2nd Vice-President – Jack Downey
Treasurer – Elisabeth Castro
Secretary – Pat Allen
Past President – Mary Means
- Directors voted unanimously for all new officers

Peggy Rogers took command as president thanking Mary Means for her dedication and presented her with a plaque.

Peggy urged everyone to take note of the upcoming BOD meeting dates

- February 11, 2017
- April Cruise---No BOD meeting
- August 12, 2017
- December 2, 2017

Door prizes of six geraniums were provided by the Victoria Master Gardeners.

There being no further business, President Peggy Rogers adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Pat Allen