

October 12, 2009
DGCP Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Dan Kislinger, Sharon Rogers, Kate Nicoletti, Katie Hanson, Gloria Piche, Marian Syrjamaki-Kuchta, Francios Medion, Stacy LaVres, Nicole Wilde

Guests: Kerry Donors, Loni Coppin

Kate Nicoletti read the mission statement.

Minutes: Need to amend minutes under Harvest Dinner. Steve O'Neil and Joel Kilgour were not present, instead Paul Seklinski was the MC. With the aforementioned amendments, Sharon made a motion to approve the minutes, Kate seconded.
Approved

Program Coordinator Report: Refer to report email Oct 12, 2009 to the board from Katie Hanson. Katie added to the report that the DCGP made \$85 at the UMD farmers market. Dan asked if Katie was sending out a fall clean-up letter to volunteers. There are a number of sites where the clean-up is not organized. There are 144 gardeners that will receive the letter. Katie plans to get the letter out this week. Katie also reported that volunteers are helping with the office work. Katie spoke with the new director of the office of Civic Engagement at UMD - Brian Bloom - to have students intern at the DCGP. Brian thought that this program would be a good match for the program, especially in the Spring. Dan asked if we could work and define what their tasks were. Katie also reported the last month has predominately been devoted to office related tasks. Katie is making up some hours from last month this month. Katie also reported that she is pregnant and due in April. She is thinking about the future, and about her priorities and concerned about her ability to give enough during the spring. So its something we all need to be thinking about now. She also mentioned that she also also wants to stay involved.

President's Report: Dan reported that he would like to establish working committees for various activities which would be separate and report to the board. There would be one foundational person (committee chair) in charge of each committee. The committees would be responsible for developing their own volunteer base, developing their own plan and coming to the board with their respective budgeting needs. Also he recommended that the board reduce in size and focus on strategic thinking activities and fundraising. Current board members could go to a committee or stay on the board. Dan has 6 committee suggestions so far. He has spoken to a Marian, Lonnie, Stacy and Kate about chairing committees. Dan said that putting up the framework of the working committees to get them working on defining what their tasks would be and then

the board would be working on strategy. Lonnie asked if the land stewardship committee meetings were open to site coordinator. The idea is to not wear people out so trying to decentralize work. Dan also mentioned this is a plan under development. Kate N mentioned that there is a level of responsibility that seems may be too much for just a volunteer. Katie mentioned that getting more volunteers to help with spreading the work out. In review the committee defines what the committee is about, recruit volunteers and advise the board on the budget needed to run the committee. Dan said the next steps would be to meet and discuss this in detail in a retreat type setting. If the committees could define the committee and names of people who might be willing to help for a retreat meeting this would be helpful. Lonnie volunteered to act as a facilitator. Suggested date would be November 7th from 9-1PM at Gloria's home. Nicole and Paul would meet prior with Dan and then meet with Lonnie to go through the agenda in order to prepare her to facilitate the retreat. Gloria's address is 5454 N Tischer - 1-mile north of the Lakewood School. Everyone to bring side things to go along with soup and veggies.

Committee Reports

Education Committee: 9 People are signed up for sauerkraut and the chicken class. Marian has licenses as she wants to make sure that these are available for the chicken class.

Harvest Equinox Dinner: Attendance was around 30-40 people. The dinner was nice, the DCGP raised about \$220.35 on the raffle, \$25 in memberships and \$14.86 in donations in cash. The annual membership meeting and dinner combined was thought to be a good idea, but it seemed that 30 minutes was not enough time to answer questions. Maybe 45 minutes. Stacy mentioned that Dan did a great job, but was surprised that more people didn't step up to help. Marian asked if the people who attended were community gardeners. Katie said yes. Marian thought the dinner attendance was made more of activists vs. gardeners. Some people just came for the meeting, some just came from dinner. Marian asked if there was some way to remember to take jars next year to take home soup.

Land Stewardship: The committee met last week and discussed the topic of expectations of gardeners and priorities expectations.

Financial report

To date we have \$17,420 available. Cash flow indicates that beyond Dec 2009 - a six month projection - we are projected to have around \$16K working - similar in April. We have a check for \$5k from the NERSP. This is a reimbursement. Dan will also be sending in a reimbursement for \$500 for a computer. We really need to look at building up contributions. The letter was quite successful last year. A year-end letter should be

coming after Thanksgiving and prior to Christmas. Katie is slated to work an equivalent of 10 hours of week for October. After October - November and December looking at 2 hours a week.

New Business

Planning session retreat - planned for Nov 7th. Marian made the motion to cancel our credit card and get a debit card from US bank.

Stacy resigned as treasurer and Carol Perkins said she would be willing to be the treasurer but concerned with liability. She wanted to know if there is directors and officers insurance. Dan mentioned that you can get insurance under personal liability to cover liabilities as a board member. We need to find a treasurer. Dan will sign checks in the interim. Sharon as Vice Chair would sign checks as a back-up.

Marian informed the board Goodshop.com scroll down and look for your store. If you buy through Goodshop you can make money for your favorite organization.

Marian made a move to adjourn, Sharon seconded.

Meeting adjourned 6:30PM.