

Community Garden Board Meeting Minutes March 10 , 2008

Members Present

Christine Dean, Marian Syrjamaki-Kuchta, Kate Nicoletti, Stacy LaVres, Dan Kislinger, Carol Hill- Perkins, Gloria Piche and Carrie Slater Duffy

Members Absent: Sharon Rogers

Stacy read the mission statement. Carol motioned and Stacy seconded to approve the minutes for February.

Land committee

The group met on January 21st and Feb 4th. Notes from their meetings were submitted. They want to concentrate on 4 garden sites and sponsorship at these sites. The next meeting is March 17th.

Director's Report

Carrie handed out the projected vs. actual budget. She reported that \$1150.00 has been raised from the end of year fundraiser letter.

Carrie reported that she is working on re-applying for the SMDC grant - the deadline is April 20th and she is also applying for a grant from the Finnigan Foundation in the Twin Cities that gives out grants to folks working with low income kids. That deadline is April 1st. Carrie handed out and discussed our Strategic Plan. Katie and Carrie visited City Hall to try to get information on our garden sites including those owned by the State and County.

Muffin Hill site is owned by the state and they were wondering about being able to cut down trees to make it more usable for gardeners. No one used this site last year in part due to the shade.

Katie sent a letter to the garden site contact folks to find out if they are still the spokesperson for the site and what are the main issues at each site. Carrie has asked about getting a credit card for use by the DCGP. In the past, board members have charged orders for seeds or bulbs for example and then had to be reimbursed.

Carrie will check out different banks and credit unions and choose a credit card company. Carrie also reported that we had to pay a late penalty to the IRS for filing our Form 990. 5013C organizations have to file this and there is a late fee calculated daily. The amount we owed was \$2300.00. The tax account that the board decided to use is Eikill and Schilling LTD. Also, Carrie has spoken to 2 local magazines that want to write articles about our program. They are Living North Magazine and Duluth Superior Magazine.

Newsletter Committee

The new deadline for articles is April 1st. They can be sent to Lisa VanLanduyt who is assisting with editing. Her E-mail is lvanlanduyt@yahoo.com and her phone is 722-3201. Stacy reported that the committee is looking for people to write articles. The board asked her for a list of

possible topics. The next meeting date is pending.

Tree sale

The orders are starting to come in. The deadline is April 1st. Dan arranged to be at the farmers market on Wednesday April 30th to bag up orders. On Thursday, May 1st and Friday May 2nd will be the time to distribute orders. The leftovers can be sold Saturday at the Farmers Market Opening Day. We will rent a booth for \$15.00. Gloria and Katie will start working on getting volunteers for the event.

Membership Committee

Carrie has put together new categories for membership from suggestions from the board. They will be in the next newsletter.

Seed Committee

The seed packing party will be April 12th at Peace Church from 10 am to 1:30 pm. The Woodland Hills staff and kids will help as well as Paul Steklenski who has arranged everything. (The original date was April 5th but was changed to the 12th.)

Truffle Sale

The truffle sale profit after Jennifer took out her portion was \$ 564.00. This was about \$140.00 less than we made the last two years. We will be giving Jennifer a blueberry plant from our tree sale to thank her for all her efforts.

New Business

The board decided to put the minutes of our meetings on the web site. Marian will follow up with this. Carrie would like to get the education committee going. The following folks volunteered to be on the committee: Stacy, Kate, Marian, Katie and Carrie. Carrie reminded the board about the upcoming Community Garden Conference in Minneapolis on March 29th. She hopes some of the board will go with her and that we can carpool to the conference. A reminder to continue recruiting board members. Christine will follow up with Kristin Stuchis who attended a meeting last month.

Minutes submitted by Kate Nicoletti