

Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2024 (Closed Membership Meeting)
Burnet AgriLife Auditorium

Call to Order: Terri Winter called the meeting to order at 1:39pm

Attendance: Terri Winter/President, Celia Manlove/Treasurer,
Carolyn Stephens/Past President, Marybeth Edeen/Corresponding Secretary,
Terri Clark/Recording Secretary, Patti Young/Member at Large,
Carolyn Crouchet/Membership Chair

January 8, 2024 Board meeting minutes approved as emailed and posted online.

Carolyn Crouchet presented HLMGA Membership Report for 2023

Total Membership: 96 (Includes certified, emeritus, waivers and provisional members)

Recertified or certified from 2023 associates' certification class: 86

Emeritus status: 5

Waivers (Paid dues): 3

2023 Associates/Provisional (paid dues) 2

Other updates:

Moved/Resigned: 9

Moved, Transferred in good standing: 1

Removed due to lack of hours or no dues paid: 7

Associate Members to be removed from VMS intern roster, Associates did not complete the class, no dues paid or resigned: 17

Celia presented the Financial report for January 2024. Celia noted we have some outstanding checks from 2023. Celia & Terri W. will talk to Stacy in the AgriLife office after the meeting to discuss. Celia also noted that David Waldo/The Garden requested an additional \$1470.00 in excess of their budget to repair pump affected by the recent freeze in January. (Total cost is \$1860.00) Carolyn Stephens motioned to approve this expenditure for the Garden, in excess of The Garden's budget by \$1470.00 for repairs. Marybeth Edeen seconded, and all in

favor. Due to this expenditure being over \$500, the board will present to the Membership for approval at the February General meeting on 2-13-24.

Two members have expressed interest in the editor position for the "Dig It" newsletter. Marylyne Norman and Anelicia Cheney-Campbell. Both bring many beneficial strengths and expertise to this position. In light of this, the board suggested that both Marylyne and Anelicia co-edit the "Dig It" on a 3 month trial basis to see if this is a good fit for both. Terri W. will contact both ladies to discuss further.

It was brought to Terri W.'s attention that non-certified associates are trying to help with the 2024 Certification class to earn volunteer hours. She will reiterate with Joan Altobelli (2024 Class Coordinator) that the by-laws do not allow non-certified associates to mentor or earn hours volunteering at the certification classes. Someone not involved with the cert class misinformed one of the associates that they could do this.

In addition, it was recently discovered that an error was made on the 2024 Certification Class application that stated associates would have a year from the last class date to complete and record the required hours for certification. The bylaws were changed October 2023, stating associates have until the end of their class year (December 31st) to fulfill this requirement. Terri W. brought this to Joan's attention and also sent an email to this year's class associates notifying them of this error, ensuring everyone understands the requirements up front.

We are still awaiting clarification regarding the new procedure for background checks. As soon as we are advised by Kelly Tarla, we will proceed.

Hank Rominski (King's Garden) has expressed his disappointment that this year's Certification class schedule does not include a field trip to King's Garden. King's Garden is a very important project of HLMGA and a huge benefit to the community. The board agrees that if it is at all possible for the cert class schedule to be amended to include a visit to King's Garden it should happen. Terri W. will contact Joan to see if this can be done. The associates would benefit from visiting, and hopefully will volunteer, earning hours towards their certification as well as providing much needed help at King's Garden.

Marybeth Edeen inquired about taking over the responsibility of monitoring the HLMGA website email as corresponding secretary. Currently, this has been done by Terri Clark, recording secretary. It makes sense to have corresponding secretary handle this responsibility. (Terri Clark agrees!) Marybeth is going to contact Kerry Nyquist, who has set up the gmail account and password for the website email to make this change.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024.

Meeting adjourned: 3:35pm

Submitted by:

Terri Clark/Recording Secretary