

Highland Lakes Master Gardener
Executive Board Meeting
February 3, 2023
Agrilife Extension Building Classroom

Call To Order:

Terri Winter called the meeting to order at 1:37pm.

Attendance:

Terri Winter/President, Carolyn Stephens/Past President, Jim Woodul/Treasurer,
Ann McClanahan/Co-Secretary, Terri Clark/Co-Secretary, Kerry Nyquist/Member at Large,
Patti Young/Member at Large, Carolyn Crouchet/Membership Chair,
Kelly Tarla/Burnet County Extension Agent

Minutes for January 2023 were reviewed and motion made, seconded and approved as written with no corrections.

Carolyn Crouchet gave update on membership. There are currently 90 certified members in good standing, and 2 paid members have requested a waiver for health reasons (Colleen Gray and Julie Wade). Motion made, seconded and approved for these two waivers. There are 2 Provisional members that are planning to mentor in the 2023 Certification Class, one of whom is an Associate who has paid dues but hasn't recorded required hours for certification, and the other has not paid dues. The consensus of the board is Certification Class mentors must be certified and be a member in good standing prior to the start of each year's Certification Class. Motion was made, seconded and approved as stated. Terri Winter will discuss this with the Certification Class coordinator.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept membership report as written (and attached to these minutes) with the provision that those members who have not paid 2023 dues and/or completed 2022 required hours by our next general membership meeting on 2/14/2023 will be subject to being removed from HLMGA membership. Associates from the 2022 certification class have until April 6, 2023 to certify, but 2023 dues must be paid by 2/14/23.

A committee is needed to review HLMGA's by-laws and operating manual for updates. Motion made, seconded and approved to form this committee.

Motion made, seconded and approved to have Jim Woodul/Treasurer move \$20,889.66 from HLMGA's checking account at First State Bank in Burnet to a savings account for HLMGA at First State Bank in Burnet. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Roxanne Dunegan (Chair for Lawn and Garden show) is requesting the advertising budget for 2023's show be increased by \$200 for a total of \$500 as she plans to advertise in the Picayune. Motion made, seconded and approved to increase the Lawn and Garden Show advertising to \$500.

The board discussed obtaining insurance coverage for HLMGA for the Lawn and Garden Show, as well as other events, and also insuring the executive board from any potential suits. Terri Winter is going to verify with Linda French what the event insurance would actually cover, as some policies cover up to 3 events. Kerry Nyquist will work on obtaining 3 quotes for coverage for HLMGA Executive board.

Terri Winter said it has been brought to her attention by Texas Master Gardener that several association members (not just HLMGA) are using the "OTHER" tab excessively to record their time instead of using the approved project tabs. Members should avoid using the "OTHER" tab. If members are confused about how to record hours correctly they can contact Carolyn Crouchet. Terri Winter will address this at the next general membership meeting as there is also confusion about approved projects and approved activities. Garden type work has to be an approved project.

Kelly Tarla discussed the opportunities available for members to volunteer at the Agrilife building and Terri Winter will also remind members of this at the next general meeting.

HLMGA has several members from Lampasas county and there are also several new associates from Lampasas county attending the 2023 Certification class. Lampasas county does not have a MGA. Motion was made, seconded and approved to add the Lometa Community Garden and the Lampasas Community Garden to the VMS system as an approved activity so those members who live in these areas can volunteer in their communities and earn volunteer hours.

Samantha Melvin is stepping down from the Scholarship committee and Lida Woodul is the new chairperson. The committee would like to add 2 more people. Samantha asked that HLMGA consider adding the 2 high schools in Lampasas county to participate in applying for the scholarship. Motion made, seconded and approved to open up the scholarship application process to Lampasas county high school students.

Patti Young and Terri Winter would both like to attend the "Junior Master Gardener" 2 day event via Zoom. This would be considered "Specialist Training" and eligible for future reimbursement.

Terri Winter and Linda Stoneking will attend the TMGA Conference.

The new PET Committee Chairperson is Lyn Medford.

Terri Winter shared that at the recent TMG Director's meeting there was a presentation regarding an endowment fund that TMG had started with \$10,000 that accrues interest. It was confusing to several people in attendance as it seemed TMG was asking associations to consider participating in the endowment fund by adding funds. The consensus of the board is more information is needed. Kelly Tarla said she will find out more information.

Members who are due for background checks will be given their forms at the next general membership meeting on 2/14/23.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2023.

Submitted by:

Terri Clark, Co-Secretary