

Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association
Minutes for the General Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Hybrid Meeting from the Burnet AgriLife Auditorium and via Zoom

Call to Order: Terri Winter called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

Attendance: In person: 53 members, 10 associates; via Zoom: 8 members

Linda Stoneking introduced our speaker, Lori Davies who gave a presentation on "Tower Gardens".

Terri Winter thanked Virginie Lamb for coordinating the refreshments, and thanked those who brought snacks. She reminded everyone that bringing snacks to the meetings earns an hour of volunteer time. She also directed people to the back table if they were interested in buying previously owned Master Gardener T-shirts.

Break: 2:57pm

Business Meeting: Terri Winter called the meeting back to order at 3:19pm.

March 14, 2023 General Meeting minutes were approved as emailed and published on the website. (The April meeting had been cancelled due to inoperable restrooms)

Jim Woodul presented the March and April Financials and they were approved as emailed and published on the website. Jim also noted that our recent Lawn & Garden Show was a great success. He reminded everyone that if they are incurring expenses on behalf of HLMGA they should fill out a reimbursement form and turn in their receipts to Jim or Terri Winter. He also encouraged members to volunteer at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays and also the upcoming County Area Fair in June. Jim gave us an update on the status of moving \$21,000 from HLMGA's checking account to a CD. This was done 4/11/23 with Edward Jones earning 4.9%, maturing 1/19/24.

Terri Winter commended everyone for keeping up with recording their volunteer and AT hours on VMS. She then recognized members who recently earned certification status and also those who have already completed their required volunteer and AT hours for 2023.

Roxanne Dunegan spoke about the successful Lawn & Garden Show and thanked everyone who helped, stating that volunteers made the show! We had over 1,100 attendees. She then discussed the upcoming County Area Fair, which will be our 2nd largest volunteer opportunity over a 4 day period, June 6-10. A big plus is the County Area Fair takes place inside the air-conditioned AgriLife auditorium! She has sign up sheets to volunteer. Roxanne also encouraged members to enter the fair, saying if you can make it, bake it, or grow it, you can show it! And it's a lot of fun.

Carolyn Stephens has decided to relinquish her Vegetable Superintendent position she has held for the past 6 years at the County Area Fair. We need a new Vegetable Superintendent. Please contact Carolyn or Terri Winter if you are interested.

Linda Stoneking spoke about the Burnet Farmer's and Craft Market which began this past Saturday, May 6th. She is in need of additional volunteers for this coming Saturday, 5/13 and also the last Saturday in May, the 27th. If you can help, please contact Linda. There were 10 vendors last week, and there were 294 visitors. Linda encouraged members who may have things to sell, handmade or food, to consider having a booth. It's only \$5.00 for the space. If you know of anyone who would like to participate, please have them contact Jenny McCoy, our Vendor Coordinator. We need more vendors.

Kerry Nyquist spoke about the need for liability insurance for protection of HLMGA and also the Board and Officers. We currently have a liability policy for HLMGA that Trinity Episcopal Church requires for The Garden. That policy is only for The Garden. After much research, the board is recommending a General Liability policy and Director & Officer policy that would provide coverage for Trinity Episcopal's requirements for The Garden, as well as cover the association at other locations and events. The recommendation is to purchase the policy with Galloway Insurance at a annual premium cost of \$1623.00. This cost would stay the same for 3 years. The policy would be issued through Cincinnati Insurance and Chubb. Coverage includes general liability, director & officer liability and employment practices, extra umbrella coverage & business owner enhancement, and non-owned vehicle. \$1,000,000 each occurrence, \$2,000,000 aggregate.

We can replace the current policy with Trinity Episcopal which ends 12/31/23, and negate that \$1200.00 annual premium as this new policy with Galloway Insurance will cover everything. David Waldo has confirmed with the church that the new policy coverage amounts will satisfy their requirements for The Garden.

Motion was made by Ray Buchanan and seconded by Lida Woodul to approve the purchase of liability insurance for HLMGA. All were in favor, no dissents, motion passed.

Terri Winter gave an update on the Fish Hatchery Pollinator Garden. It was brought to Terri's attention that due to the Fish Hatchery being a Federal program, the process to add HLMGA as volunteers for the pollinator garden is more involved. The board decided to step back and withdraw the approved activity status effective immediately, which means no volunteer hours can be posted going forward. Terri stressed that the board is not discouraging anyone from volunteering there, it is just that their time cannot be entered on VMS.

Terri Winter announced name badges will be ordered and given out at the December Christmas party.

If anyone is interested in the position of **Certification Class Coordinator**, please contact Terri Winter. **The cutoff date to voice interest is June 15, 2023.**

King's Garden is in need of a new Project Chair to take over for Hank Rominski.

There is a need for someone to put together an updated pictorial directory, and Linda Stoneking volunteered at the meeting. She will need updated pictures from members. She will let us know how this will be done . . .

Terri Winter stated we need someone to be a grant writer for HLMGA, and Celia Manlove volunteered.

Terri passed out Project Visitation cards, challenging everyone to visit 5 of the approved HLMGA projects over the next month and bring their card to June's meeting. Everyone who visits 5 different projects starting 5/9/23 (not before) will get their card put into a drawing for a free T-shirt.

The scholarship committee has interviewed 4 applicants and decided on 2 finalists to award scholarships to. We will find out who at the next meeting in June.

A reminder was made about Green Thumb's upcoming presentation for May 18th, 10-11am at the Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery for a "Tour of the Demonstration Gardens" led by Linda O'Nan, Texas Master Naturalist.

The next general meeting will be 6/13/23 at 2pm in the Burnet AgriLife auditorium and via Zoom.

Submitted by,
Terri Clark, Co-Secretary