

WNPSSSC Board Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2018

Meeting was held at John Neorr's House, 28308 185th Ave SE Kent WA

Called to order by Chair Bill Brookreson at 1:10pm. Board Members present were Bill Brookreson, John Neorr, Jane Ely, Sue Butkus, Gail Trotter, and Jane Ostericher , Lee Fellenberg (via teleconference).

Announcements: Bonnie Blessing-Earle will be dropping off of the board but will continue to be active as her time allows.

Review of Minutes from November 19, 2017:

The minutes were approved by acclamation of the members present.

Reports

Chair's Report: Members received the written report electronically. See addendum.

Questions for Chair from Gail Trotter: Who is filling in for the chair at the April 14 Enviro House event? Answer: Gail Sklar (Bill has State Board Meeting that day)

Bill also noted that as part of his duties of Chair he prepares the Annual Report and the Volunteer List and keeps these updated as the year progresses. He passed around copies of the 2017 reports and gave a written copy to Gail Trotter as she is Volunteer Coordinator and can use the list to recruit volunteers for various activities and events.

Treasurer's Report: Jane Ely sent written report via email to all board members. (See addendum) John Neorr pointed out the errors made in the original reports sent out.(\$250 listed as Chapter programs instead of Plant Sale). He then explained how to read and view the 2 reports to check for errors. You can click on "Sort by Accounts" to see all checks written for various accounts. **Bank Balance is \$23, 846.88.** Report accepted and approved as corrected.

Grants: John Neorr submitted report via email. (See addendum)

Discussion: John explained the problems with the Lakota MS grant, the teacher has left the school and so the final report is not going to be completed. Also, he estimates that perhaps 50% of plants installed were actually native plants. This is a common issue with most of these "Pollinator" garden projects.

Motion: John Neorr made a motion to increase the 2018 Grants budget to \$3,000. Jane Ely seconded. Motion carried. Bill Brookreson explained that grants over \$500 must be approved by State Board President.; Grants over \$1,000 must be approved by the State Executive Committee. Gail Trotter asked for clarification, if a project is denied at the State Conservation Grant committee level can it be eligible for our local chapter? Answer: Yes. Gail also asked about what is the process for grant applicants to collect recommendation letters from a local chapter? Answer: They go to the Chairperson of that local chapter. John Neorr suggested that the Board needs a policy written concerning the process of informing the board on these grants requests.

Education: Jane Ostericher reports no new activity.

Hikes: Cyndy Dillon submitted report via email. See addendum. Bill noted that the recent Millersylvania Park hike was very well attended by over 35 persons.

Volunteers: Gail Trotter submitted report via email. She noted that the supply of handouts was low, asked about the procedure to replenish and was told to Have them printed then submit the invoice to the Treasurer for reimbursement. Also ,she needs more plastic Sign holders. Bill noted that there should be more of these in the supply boxes at the Tacoma Nature Center storage room. Gail asked a question about a request from South Sound Green Tour(she had email communication but has not had a response back). Bill explained that she should ask them to send a formal written request for SSC participation.

Newsletters & Monthly Updates:

Bill stated that he is willing to continue as Editor of the Acorn newsletter which is published 3 issues per year: Dec/Jan, June, Aug.

The Monthly Updates are sent via email by Lee to all members on email list serve. Sue suggested board members be reminded of the deadline dates for submission for the monthly updates and the newsletter. (One month ahead of publication date)

Lee states that he sends out 43 hard copies of the Acorn via US Mail. He asked if he should drop the Membership application from the newsletter each month that will free up space and perhaps make it only one page. (Very few memberships are obtained from these). Discussion on whether this would save any money or be a problem for the formatter (Margaret). Lee decided to just stay with the 11x17 folded sheet for now.

Programs: Sue Butkus reported that programs are all set up for the year. Donovan Tracy will be doing the program in May in Tacoma on Alpine wildflowers. There was an emergency change for March program in Tacoma due to illness. Susan Waters will step in and repeat her talk in Tacoma. April in Olympia is on Sudden Oak Death and in ~~Olympia~~ Tacoma it is on Lichens, entitled "The Fascinating World of Lichens). The May program in Olympia will be on Moss as an indicator of pollution.

Discussion on the September kick-off options: Instead of traditional picnic it was suggested that we have a joint special program. We have allocated \$1500 in our budget to do this. Options include Jerry Franklin (UW Forester) and several others that Sue is in touch with. We should schedule on a Mon- Thurs when an appropriate facility and speaker are available.

Plant Sale April 21: Bill handed out a list of plants ordered to date. Plans to check out the following nurseries: Watershed in Longview, Storm Lake, HumbleRoots Farm, Eatonville, and several others. John Neorr requested a resale certificate so when he goes to Woodinville he can pick up plants. Bill will keep an updated inventory and periodically send out updates to the board. Gail Trotter continues to look into sites for plant staging in Olympia near the sale site.

Other updates: - All Permits have been obtained

-credit card meeting is set-up with Jane Ely and Columbia bank for March 21,

Jane Ostericher will bring her I-pad with LTE data to the sale for swiping cards. Volunteer v

-Lee will send out and post Flyers on or about April 1.

- Jane O. has posted sale on newspaper sites, will add to Craig's List on April 1.

Board Planning:

1. Recruitment of New Board Members: Bill Brookreson currently logs over 1000 volunteer hours per year and would like to decrease to about 600. He would like to step down from the Chair position. Bonnie Blessing-Earle is resigning from VP for Olympia, Jane Ely is not standing for re-election for Treasurer. Gail Trotter and Cyndy Dillon are currently the nominating committee, please send suggestions to them. Jane Ely suggested that we send out a message about new board member recruitment in our communications to members.

2. Restructure plant sale? After discussion, decided to just get through this plant sale before taking on a re-structuring.

3. Spending the Money: The chapter has \$23,000 in funds to spend on mission programs. Bill suggested we consider funding (or partially funding) a new Stewardship Program, the cost is approx.. \$7,000-10,000. Discussion occurred concerning increasing Grants awarded.

There is a \$500 limit per grant but grant recipients can apply for multiple grants. Question: Why are supportive functions not valued for grant funding? There was a discussion on how to make a proposal to the state board to request a change in their policy. [Not clear what this refers to}

For the Good of the Order:

1. Butterfly Garden Plant List on WNPS.org currently lists an endangered species, John Neorr is the webmaster for this so he will fix it.

2. Native Plant Week Nurseries List needs updating.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:05 PM