

WNPS South Sound Board Meeting
Sunday, November 20, 2016
Brookreson House, 702 Columbia Ave, Fircrest

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 by Bill Brookreson. Board members present were Bill Brookreson, Jane Ely, Cyndy Dillon, John Neorr, Jane Ostericher, Lee Fellenberg, Sue Butkus, and Sharon Bergquist-Moody.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as submitted.

Election Results:

The current officers were re-elected. Committee chairs will continue to serve as last year. John agreed to continue to serve as the grant committee chair for the coming year.

Reports:

Chair's report: Bill

Board members were sent copies of Bill's report and the following discussion and suggestions arose:

It was discussed that standing committee chairs should be mentioned in the report. A short several sentence financial summary should also be included. Membership stats would be of interest to members who view the report. Bill will incorporate the suggestions.

A mention of Meet-Up as a tool being used to recruit new members and activity participants could be of interest to the membership. John monitors the Meet-Up site and as a result of discussion will add a link to membership.

Treasurer's report: Jane E.

We did well at the fall plant sale netting \$3,668.49. Jane will make some changes to the Plant Sales Summaries report, as some errors were found in the Spring Plant Sale expenses. This will change the total income – expenses for 2016 to \$9119.84.

David Giblin sent a letter thanking us for the \$2000 donation we made to the Herbarium at the University of Washington. Bill will share this letter with members in the winter Acorn.

Speaker Fee Discussion:

In discussing speaker fees, we agreed to allow the presentation chair to authorize whatever speaker payment seems appropriate as long as:

- 1) It stays within the annual speaker budget,
- 2) No payment is greater than \$500 unless approved by the Board

We agreed that whenever possible, payments to speakers shall be an honorarium and shall be recorded as such in the treasurer's books.

When requesting a check for payment to a speaker, the presentation chair shall notify the treasurer as early as possible so that the check can be presented to the speaker at the end of the meeting at which the speaker made the presentation.

2017 Budget Discussion: All

Bill would like to have a budget of \$10,000 to spend for 2017 plant sales. As a result, the Board increased the plant sale expense budget to \$10,000.

We agreed to change the budget for speakers to \$3000 giving the speaker chair more flexibility.

It was asked what is included in special programs. John explained this as above and beyond what we usually need for programs. The programs we put on with Jack Nisbet at the State Historical Museum and the first Andy MacKinnon presentation at Evergreen are examples of "special programs". For this event we had extra expenses for food, supplies, and on-site support.

Answering a question about a payment: The Coach House rentals are paid by the treasurer. A motion was made and the new budget for 2017 was adopted.

Grants: John

The pollinator garden project is all planted but a report still needs to be sent. \$1950 has been spent this year on grants.

It was noted that the Boze Elementary School Project was mentioned in the statewide appeal letter as an example of what the WNSP is doing to educate the young people of Washington State about our beautiful flora.

Thank you to John and Jane O. for their work on the grants.

Future programs: Bill

Bill will be speaking at Pierce Co. Master Gardeners March training.

Bill will be speaking at a training in Chehalis in the spring, an event called Learning From the Chehalis.

Education: Jane O.

A Voyager Elementary School Science Specialist asked Jane to help with an after-school birding club in the spring by providing resources about native plants and their relationship with birds.

At the State level Bill reports there is a movement afoot to push for a committee who will discuss and implement an education program that would be more effective than what is not currently happening. Jane would be willing to participate in this discussion.

The Central Chapter has said they would like to train folks to work with young people. John thinks chapter education chairs should gather together and share ideas about what has worked and possible new ideas.

Jane has done neighborhood walks with families to identify native plants, this was well received. Liability can be a problem when taking groups of students. Background checks are required if you interact with children or vulnerable adults. However, the process is simple and quick and costs nothing when the check is submitted by a government agency (eg school) or non-profit (eg WNPS). See <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/chrequests.htm>

Volunteers and Hikes: Cyndy

Bonnie has been meeting with homeowners during her spotted frog restoration and this should be added to Cyndy's report as an activity.

Cyndy will check on involvement this year at the Flower and Garden Show in Seattle.

Cyndy welcomes other hike ideas in addition to those listed in her report.

Spring Plant Sale: Bill

Preparation is moving forward for the Spring Plant Sale April 22 and the Coach House has been reserved. Bulbs and plant starts are being potted at the Montague's barn. The Central Puget Sound Chapter will share 25% of their order from Four Corners for the Spring Plant Sale. These will be potted up and stored at the Montague's when they arrive.

Stewardship: Bill

The new Stewards are actively involved. This includes their work tabling at the fair and work parties at various sites including the China Lake site.

Programs: Sue

John Bishop, Mt. St. Helens scientist/researcher, has agreed to be the speaker for the spring event at The Evergreen State College. Sue has been talking to Frederika who is excited about the event but has not yet confirmed. The proposed event will be held May 8, 2017 in the Recital Hall at Evergreen.

Bill requested program descriptions for the winter Acorn coming soon and Jane O. would like short descriptions for the Meet-Up website.

Thank you to Sue who has worked hard on getting this roster together.

Sharon requested that Sue make a few half sheet meeting flyers because some locations have a size limit for posting events.

Newsletter ad updates: Bill and Lee

Mid December is the deadline for the Acorn to be mailed/emailed in late December or January. Margaret Purcell edits and formats the newsletter. Thank you to Margaret who has volunteered to do this for the organization for many years.

Website discussion: Lee

It was discussed and agreed that within 2 weeks after a board meeting, board members will submit their final committee reports to Bill. He will send them on to Lee to post on the website.

Holiday parties:

The December meeting in Tacoma and Olympia is a wonderful opportunity for members to share activities and photos of their flora experiences in the wider world with their fellow SSNPS friends.

Lee:

Lee will be retiring at the end of January 2017 and moving to Idaho a few months later. We will be celebrating Lee's years of service to the SSNPS with a party at a later date. Past board members who have served with Lee will be invited to attend.

Lee will continue to help the chapter with the website; update mailing (snail and e-mail); election send out, and related; print and send out Acorn via snail and also electronic message. He has graciously offered to spend some time updating and improving the website after his move.

Thank you to Lee for his service over the years.

Next Meeting:

Sunday, March 12th at the home of Bill Brookreson.

Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 3:10

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Secretary