

WNPSSC Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Sunday, August 21, 2016
Brookreson House, 702 Columbia Ave, Fircrest.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 by Bill Brookreson. Board members present were Bill Brookreson, Cyndy Dillon, Sue Butkus, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, Jane Ostericher, Lee Fellenberg, John Neorr, and Sharon Bergquist-Moody.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of the previous March 20, 2016 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report:

Jane Ely, treasurer, was not able to attend this meeting but she submitted complete financial reports via email for everyone to view prior to the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding funds for restoration and whether or not this needed to be a separate item in the budget. It was agreed that grants can be written for restoration. If a Board member submits the grant or plays a key role in preparing a grant, to avoid a conflict of interest, they must then recuse themselves from discussion regarding approval of the grant.

The budget was approved as submitted by Jane Ely.

Chair's report:

Bill submitted his report concerning his activities serving on the WNPS State Board, chapters activities so far this year, and his activities as chair.

WNPS Communications strategy: This was presented at the previous meeting and there continues to be strong feelings by our South Sound Board for continuing the printing of the Douglasia. Members felt that some parts of the Douglasia, such as advocacy, could be electronic. Others feel it should be electronic, especially the research, but continue the hard copy. It was brought up that in some parts of rural WA folks only have access to dial-up internet service and a few members still do not use the internet at all. Scanning old copies and papers from the past would be good to do in the future.

Jean Richard Award for volunteerism at the State Capital Museum: We have been awarded this for our work in the native garden at the Capital Museum. Bill will attend the luncheon Sept. 24th to receive the award on behalf of the chapter.

Other Committee Reports: Written reports were submitted ahead of time via email.

Plant Sale: Our fall sale is Oct. 8th. Bill will begin picking up plants in the coming weeks. Bill shared possible posters he is working on for publicity. Lee wonders if it wouldn't be easier to get a purchasing card for items to be used for the sale instead of using checks. This might not work for smaller growers who appreciate the cash. Eatonville Nursery sent out a new list of their plants. We will need special instructions for plants from Derby Canyon. Dan and Pat Montegue might be able to help with this so

folks will have success with planting. Cyndy is working on getting volunteers for the sale. Board members agreed to help again.

Stewardship Training report: Bill reported that 23 people graduated and they have already been out working at various sites. Master gardeners were involved in the training and were given a special designation. Bill is working on a committee to continue the Stewardship Program so it can be taken statewide. One of the problems is that Jim Evans is considered a private contractor and the state rules continue to change. We will be reviewing all contracts to ensure that our contractor's agreements are in compliance with Fair Labor Standards and state rules.

Fair update:

John reported that we are sharing a booth with CNLM, the Center for Natural Lands Management. The fair is longer this year, it starts Labor Day, so finding enough volunteers is challenging. So far Cyndy has 32 volunteers with 5-8 slots still open. CNLM will staff one weekend. CNLM brochures will be available on a separate table for folks who want them. Bill will assemble plants for the booth. Byrna will take care of handouts and the restocking throughout the fair. John has the display board.

Volunteers and Hikes update:

Cyndy noted that Prairie Appreciation Day should be added to the chapter activities part of Bill's Annual Report. Cyndy is lining up future hikes and she will cover the Hatchery event.

Grants:

John mentioned that the Boze elementary school project is the most rewarding grant he has worked on. He shared that the level of involvement, student activities, enthusiasm, and outcomes were just amazing. Teachers, kids, and the principal were all involved. Neighbors even agreed to help with watering during the summer. John wants us to encourage folks to apply for funds. We still have money budgeted for grants this year.

Fall programs update:

Sue submitted a draft of speakers for our monthly meetings She tried to focus on National Parks for Oct. but it didn't work out. Bill will meet with Sue for confirmed dates and speakers so these can be included in the upcoming newsletter. Cyndy would like a brief flyer of speakers for a state fair handout. Jane O. will work on publicity as she gets the speaker information.

Jane O. will work with Sue on the educational pieces for the meeting openers. In some cases the speaker/educational minutes might be coordinated as to subject.

John Bishop, Mt. St. Helens researcher, might be the speaker for the event in April at The Evergreen State College.

Education:

Jane will meet with the science teacher at Voyager Elementary in Gig Harbor regarding birds and native plants. The school is located next to Kopachuck State Park so the possibilities are numerous.

Election update:

Cyndy reports that the current board members are willing to be candidates for the ballot this fall.

Picnic update:

Bill and Cyndy will work on the menu for the picnic at Powderworks Park in Dupont, Wednesday, Sept. 14th. Bill will barbeque burgers. At this event we will honor John Neorr and Anna Thurston for their amazing contribution over the years to the SSC.

Newsletter update:

Bill and Lee will coordinate with items for the upcoming newsletter to be sent very soon. Lee needs a week to put together the ballot. We are fortunate that Lee will continue to do web work next year from Idaho.

Great Yards Get-Together (originally South Sound Garden Party):

Although Bill welcomes other volunteers, he will attend this event Sept. 10th in Olympia. Environmental groups set up this informational event for the public at Heritage Park by Capital Lake in Olympia.

Other business:

Discussion of need for forest preservation:

Cyndy requested a chapter statement of position for preserving forests and native vegetation in urban areas. This could be used at city council meetings when a member presents on the importance of leaving natives on lands that are being developed. Bill suggested that we ask Frank Knight to draft an initial position paper. Bill also suggested tracking actions as a possibility for a steward project. Bill will talk to Jim Evans.

Flora of the Pacific Northwest:

It was moved, seconded, discussed, and approved that we donate \$2,000 budgeted for education to the Burke Herbarium at the UW for the Flora of the Pacific Northwest project.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be at 1:00 pm Sun. Nov. 20th at the home of Bill Brookreson, 702 Columbia Ave., Fircrest.

Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Secretary