

**Minutes-Executive Board Meeting
Horticulture Co-op of Metro St. Louis
September 21, 2010
Powder Valley Nature Center-MDC
11715 Cragwold Road, St. Louis, MO 63122**

Members Present:

Cindy Gilberg (President)	Jennifer Schamber (1 st Vice President)
Tammy Behm (2 nd Vice President)	Bill Ruppert (Executive Director)
Paul Roberts (Executive Treasurer)	Karen Koehneman (Executive Secretary)
Perry Eckhardt (Urban Forester-MDC)	
Diana Van Leuven (President-Van Leuven Communications)	

Opening Business/Announcements

Bill Ruppert introduced Diana Van Leuven, a Public Relations expert, who talked with passion about raising backyard chickens and the help she could provide Hort Co-op if backyard chicken raising is part of a theme at St. Louis Garden Blitz in February. Diana's message was that "backyard chickens are not a fad but here to stay."

The help she could provide included working with Purina Farms for sponsorship and recruiting Rob Ludlow as a speaker, www.backyardchickens.com.

Bill introduced Perry Eckhardt, Urban Forester-MDC, who is new to his position at Powder Valley Nature Center and replaced the retired Rob Emmett.

Robert's Rules of Order were waived for the meeting.

Executive Committee

Executive Secretary-Karen Koehneman

Minutes from the Hort Co-op Board Meeting on July 28, 2010 were reviewed and approved with two changes.

Treasurer's Report-Paul Roberts

Short Course Income:	\$8638.91
Sponsors	\$1200 (McHutchison, St. Louis Composting, Greenleaf)
Exhibitors	\$ 400 (Hummerts, Bohn's Farm, Missouri Mulch, MPR Supply)
Registration	\$4480
Silent Auction	\$1036 (checks and cash)
Silent Auction	\$1522.91 (credit card)
In-Kind Donations	Basile and Belgarde
Expenses:	\$4104+
Lunch	\$2730
Supplies	\$
Brochure	\$1374 (creation, print, mail)

These numbers are not final counts.

Paul Roberts suggested that Sponsors have a prominent presence on Hort Co-op website. It was suggested that a survey be included in the folder of St. Louis Garden Blitz.

Executive Director Report- Bill Ruppert

Bill and Paul met and drafted revisions of Hort Co-op bylaws. The goals behind the suggested revisions are to clarify the representation on the Hort Co-op Board and to clarify the terms of board members to avoid a complete board member change in the same year. See the attached 'Bylaws Review and Amendment Recommendations'.

After some discussion, the following suggestions were presented:

St. Louis institution involvement like Forest Park Forever, Master Gardeners, and Missouri Botanical Garden would stimulate new ideas into Hort Co-op.

For better communication and participation and less confusion, institute a regular board-meeting schedule.

Shorter executive board member terms would encourage more/new people to the executive board.

The creation of a yearly calendar template for events would help set meeting agendas as well as keep schedule from over-crowding.

Bill also added these thoughts:

Greenhouse/flower growers in this area are declining and growers should consider teaming with vegetable growers and small farm groups and organic growers.

Hort Co-op should create a title/position for Maggie Jackson as Executive Secretary Emeritus.

President/Vice President Report-Cindy Gilberg, Jennifer Schamber, Tammy Behm

Tammy suggested the Hort Co-op scholarship/grant amounts be increased to \$1000 each to attract more applicants. She also voiced a concern that recipients have to pay up-front and ask for reimbursement and this method of disbursement can be financially difficult for some.

Bill suggested the scholarships and grants be awarded at the St. Louis Garden Blitz cocktail party.

Add scholarship application update to calendar template.

E-mail blast to member organizations to advertise scholarships and grants.

Hort Co-op scholarship applications due December 31, 2010, meet in January to review applications and award in February.

Approach board to vote on scholarship and grant increase to \$1000.

Holiday Party will be held on Monday, December 6, 2010 at Highland's Brewing Company, 105 East Jefferson, Kirkwood, MO 63122 at 6PM. Cost \$35. Online registration will be available.

St. Louis Garden Blitz-Edible Revolution Update:

Rough Draft of Agreement details to be determined once a budget review of past Symposiums has been completed. Rough draft attached.

Concerns about agreement include division of duties and income along with satisfactory outcome for Hort Co-op and MBG. Friendly ending!

Cocktail Party Details-Orchid/Mayan theme, 6-9PM, proceeds to be divided, buffet, ninety guests, Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson to speak to the guests

Bill gave update of the National Green Centre conference to be held January 9-10, 2011. Stephanie Chipman, Career Services Director of CAFNR (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri, Columbia) is working with Bill to organize a Student Day at the conference. Bill would like to include Horticulture and Agriculture Departments of area schools as well.

Hort Co-op is considering sponsoring orientation event to encourage student networking.

Paul has collaborated with Steve Pallardy, University of Missouri, in the past to host Field Day with Meramec and Mizzou students.

Paul would like to recognize Rob Emmett and Tammy Bruckerhoff at Holiday Party or St. Louis Garden Blitz cocktail party.

Set board meeting end of October to vote on scholarship/grant increases and Agreement for the St. Louis Garden Blitz between Hort Co-op and MBG.

Next executive board meeting October 6. (?)