

**Minutes-Board Meeting  
Horticulture Co-op of Metro St. Louis  
March 2, 2011  
Wildwood Pub & Grill  
17253 New College Avenue, Wildwood, MO 63040**

**Members Present:**

Cindy Gilberg (President)	Bill Ruppert (Executive Director)
Jennifer Schamber (1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President)	Karen Koehneman (Executive Secretary)
Tammy Behm (2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President)	

**GPHA:**

Karen Nickel

**LNAGSL:**

Simon Barker	Craig Pisarkiewicz
Rich Moffitt	

**STLAA:**

Lee Mueller	Kevin Gallagher
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**GSLFGA:**

Chris Nejelski

**Opening Business/Announcements**

Cindy thanked member representatives for attending board meeting and announced that Hort Co-op will be paying for dinner.

Robert's Rules have been waived.

Bill would like to add to the agenda a discussion about Nursery Day 2011 at MBG.

Jennifer announced that *Solstice with the Stars* would be held at Sherwood Forest with details to follow.

Lee Mueller introduced Kevin Gallagher, President of STLAA.

**Executive Committee**

**Executive Secretary-Karen Koehneman**

Minutes from the Hort Co-op Board Meeting of October 26, 2010 were reviewed and approved.

Karen gave preliminary numbers from the St. Louis Garden Blitz-The Edible Revolution. 185 registrants, \$1585 raised from Silent Auction and \$7000 from sponsorships. Follow-up meeting with MBG on March 16, 2011 will reveal accurate accounting of event.

Cindy described the Garden Blitz collaboration between Hort Co-op and MBG and the possibility of co-producing another event possibly a hands-on lower cost field day for the public using our local talent.

Simon suggests that Hort Co-op should retain its focus on green industry.

Cindy would like to offer a public event to promote the importance of professional ethical service.

Bill introduced events and ideas from around the state including a vegetable garden, The Garden of Eatin', built by Powell Garden at the Metropolitan Lawn and Garden Show in Kansas City, Natural Living Expo at Webster Groves Civic Center and Sustainable Sites. Bill would like Hort Co-op to have a more prominent public presence.

Rich Moffitt introduced Missouri Green Industry Conference as a possible collaborative partner with Hort Co-op. Missouri Green Industry Conference is comprised of MoToc, SprotsTurf and Gateway Irrigation Association. The conference was held in December of 2010. One third of the profit goes into a reserve fund and the remainder is divided between the member groups. The reserve fund is saved for the lean years like the first year. Rich states that if the groups could 'cross-pollinate' it would benefit the public's knowledge of green industry standards.

Bill states that Missouri Green Industry Conference has a wide cross-section of attendees and would expand public awareness of Hort Co-op.

Other ideas for collaboration include a return to the Auto Show, second day of Garden Blitz with hands-on demonstrations, engineer green education (green roofs, storm water retention and plantings, LEED and trees) and Earth Day.

Chris announces that the speaker at Nursery Day, August 11, 2011 will be Richard Olson and his topic will be 'Great Trees for the Midwest'.

#### **Treasurer's Report-Paul Roberts**

Paul was unable to attend the meeting.

Cindy discussed the audit that was attended by Jennifer, Paul and Cindy. On a recommendation by Paul, Cindy suggested a Net Income Report prepared to compare events through the years. Bill suggested a sliding spreadsheet to compare financial data from year to year.

#### **Executive Director Report-Bill Ruppert**

Bill states that Nursery Day has become an annual meeting for green industry announcements because it is well attended by Hort Co-op members and has become an educational anchor.

Chris thanks sponsors for covering the cost of lunch and speakers.

Chris also suggests that Nursery Day could be a Hort Co-op collaboration.

Bill would like to see Plants of Merit logo used in more presentations to promote the POM program.

Bill introduces Hort Co-op bylaw changes and states the goals of modification include:

Organize member representation

Encourage new members to organizations

Offer consistent member groups on board

Clarify executive board cycle to member groups

Appoint non-voting student representative

Each member organization has two representatives but one vote

Executive secretary more involved with daily financial matters

Added past-president to executive board

Added nomination committee chaired by past-president

Two-year cycle enhances continuity

The bylaw changes were voted and agreed.

Bill suggests that the next amendment to the bylaws should be the adding of another member group.

Bill started discussion about article in St. Louis Magazine about the 'Best of in St. Louis' and perhaps Hort Co-op could suggest such categories as 'best arborist' etc.

Cindy wants everyone to think about new events and more collaboration to insure a healthy cash flow.

Simon suggested the topic of using native plants and utilize environmental people.

Chris would also like to return the focus on plants.

Cindy suggests a focus on the function of plants/trees.

Bill suggests involving condominium associations and management companies with the goal of improved green industry services through education.

Rich suggests condominium management should have line items on the budget for tree trimming and with a little education quality green industry service might be insured.

Cindy suggests Hort Co-op organize speakers for member organizations to show appreciation. Tammy suggests a committee or person to arrange speaker.