

THE MICHIGAN FARM & GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC. AKA  
MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM AND GARDEN  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AUGUST 5, 2019

LOCATION: 2474 Iroquois, Detroit, MI

Welcome

Present: Mary Schwark, Marcia Mandell, Lenore Treba, Pat Brown, Vicki Guntenaar, Sheila Kneeshaw, Charlotte Westbrook, Jo Sillanpaa,

Not present: Cheryl Malin, Mary Lynne Moellering

Meeting called to order at 10:10AM. A quorum was determined.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Approval of Minutes of 4/22/19 board meeting - Approved as submitted.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Consignment agreement between the Belle Isle Conservancy and the Michigan Division of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, Inc.

The following questions will be sent to the committee for clarification and correction.

- How many tiles exist for sale?
- How does the consignor own the tiles? Because we paid for them
- If MI Division owns, how did the small group (Robin Heller, Claudia Scioly, Cecily O'Connor and Janice Ellison) not involve the Board?
- Where will tiles be displayed for sale?
- How will they be sold? Physical location, online?

This item will be tabled until next meeting or at such time we get some answers from the committee.

#### OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sheila Kneeshaw, President

National Meeting - June 5-9, 2019

The meeting was held in Toronto with the Michigan Division in attendance. A more detailed report will be given by the National Representatives. As of this date, no further information has been given about the dates or if there is a change in the meeting location for 2020 meeting. The website for the WNF&GA, Chicago is still listed as the location for

the 2020 meeting. Mary Schwark provided updated information advising that meeting will take place in Louisville, KY, June 3-7, 2020.

#### Spring Council Meeting - May 22, 2019

The meeting was hosted by the Warren Branch located in Warren, MI. The new officers were installed. Many thanks were given to Mary Schwark for her great leadership during the past two years. She will continue as the Advisor to the organization and will continue to be the Editor of the Newsletter as well as continuing to organize member enrichment events.

#### Presidential Participation

During the next two years, I plan to participate in an event with each garden club branch. This could be in the form of attending garden walks, luncheons, months meetings to hear the guest speaker (not the business meeting), etc.

On Wednesday, July 31, 2019, I participated with the Country Garden Club of Northville, the Celedon Garden in Davisburg, MI where we also had a wonderful tea reception.

The Saginaw Branch will have its 90th birthday luncheon on September 9, 2019. I have been invited but will not be able to attend. I, however, will make a donation to the Scholarship program which benefits from this event.

The Troy Branch has invited me to participate in their Annual Halloween Party which will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at the Troy Historic Village. I will attend.

#### Getting To Know You!!

Encouragement will be given to all branches to invite another branch to participate in member activities. The activity could be visiting a project that the Branch works on or attending the educational part of the monthly meetings. Each branch will decide the activity.

#### Pat Brown, MI Division Treasurer

Pat reported that the report is not ready. She will forward report to board members as soon as it is finished. Approval will be deferred. A possible conference call or email approval will take place after report is ready.

#### Lenore Treba, Charitable Foundation Treasurer

Lenore presented Charitable Reports. Reports were accepted as presented. They will be placed on file.

#### Marcia Mandell, 1st Vice President

- 2019 Fall Council Meeting - Will be hosted by Country Garden Club of Northville at the Schoolcraft Vista Tech Center on October 15, 2019, 10AM-2PM.
- 2020 Spring Council Meeting - Franklin Branch is a possibility. Marcia will speak with Susan Chambers for further input.
- 2020 International Tea - no venue or host Branch at this time.
- 2020 Fall Council Meeting - Indian Village has given a tentative commitment.

Jo Sillanpaa, 2nd Vice President

- No report for this meeting.
- There was no update from Joette Kunse for the Speaker's Bureau or membership updates from Cheryl Malin, MI Division Registrar.

National Delegates, Cheryl Malin and Charlotte Westbrook

- National Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, June 5-9, 2019 (Gardens)

Our Conference began with a registration and check-in period, followed by a lovely Welcome Reception that warmly greeted the first-time participants.

On Thursday we had an outdoor breakfast next to the bus prior to boarding and heading to Hamilton to tour the Dundurn Castle Kitchen Garden where they use 1850's tools and varieties to grow food for the historic kitchen. The garden provides fruit, flowers, vegetables and herbs essential to the kitchen and dining room of this 40-room Italianate-style villa built in the 1830's. It was interesting to see the workers in period costumes.

We then departed for the Royal Botanical Gardens containing over 2,718 acres of a nature reserve, which makes up many spectacular gardens. We first toured Hendrie Park and its Rose Garden, where the focus is on disease-resistant, disease-tolerant and cold-hardy roses including Canadian introductions. We then lunched at the lovely Atrium before touring Laking Garden which is noted for its beautiful herbaceous and Itoh perennial collection of peonies that have been in existence since the mid-1940's. This collection is one of the most and diverse peony collections in North America. From there we toured the Rock Garden, which was inspired by the work of Dutch landscape designer, Piet Oudolf, who is designing a garden for us at Belle Isle! This design style uses herbaceous perennials and grasses, chosen for their structure, texture and flower color and offers environmental benefits, requiring less replanting and soil disturbance.

On Saturday we quickly strolled through the Toronto Botanical Gardens which focused on plant conservation and horticultural excellence. We then were on our way to the Beach Garden Tour which offered 21 of the loveliest gardens in the Beach. This was a

premier tour of the city's private gardens. They reflected the unique character of the Beach neighborhood. This area began as a farming community in the late 1700's when the Ashbridge family moved there from Philadelphia. In 1793, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe ordered that the area be divided into lots and roads were developed for stagecoaches and rail service came into being. By 1870 the area had become a summer resort for Torontonians and residential and commercial development followed. One of the big attractions of the area is a continuous beach system along the waterfront. It contains four beaches of similar lengths. With its size and number of facilities, it has become one of Toronto's major tourism destinations. The section of the area along Queen Street East is home to a large number of restaurants and unique boutiques. Over the years, the Beach has become home to many people involved in the arts, including writers, musicians, actors and film directors. It is also home to a number of wonderful, unique residential gardens that we were able to visit.

Charlotte Westbrook  
8/4/19

Advisor, Newsletter, Events, Mary Schwark

- 2019 International Tea - August 13, 2019 at various locations
- Newsletter - March 15 deadline for materials
- Member Enrichment - August 20, 2019, "How I Learned to Stop Worrying & Love Creating Special Events". Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, MI

Mary also shared three books she purchased regarding responsibilities of non-profit Boards.

Non-Profit Board Answer Book  
Legal Responsibilities of Non-Profit Boards  
10 Basic Responsibilities of Non-Profit Boards

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Incentives

There is an ongoing concern regarding the cost of producing and mailing paper copies of the newsletter. The Board continues to encourage members to receive newsletters online. These funds could become available for programming and/or scholarships, etc. See Cheryl Malin's report in these minutes. We are moving in the right direction.

### Reciprocity

Reciprocity is an attempt to make connections between and among branches so that, if a branch needs staffing help for a special event, they could reach out to other branches. Continue to encourage branches who need help to solve membership staffing problems. Mary will address this in her president's column in the spring newsletter. Mary also volunteered to help at Franklin's Garden Walk. They will advise.

## Organization Positions/Committees

Promotion & Growth chairperson - OPEN

Website manager – Sally Edwards; Kathleen Krasity

Newsletter editor – Mary Schwark

Advertising (marketing & promotion of MI DIV – all board members)

Historian – OPEN

Philanthropy chairperson – OPEN

Member Education chairperson – OPEN (inactive 2015-2019; annual educational events held in August of 2016, 2017 and 2018)

Savings account - We need to make more on our money. A committee was formed to discuss options on making more for our money. This committee includes Lenore Treba, Pat Brown and Mary Schwark.

Strategic Planning - A committee was formed including Sheila Kneeshaw, Vicki Guntenaar, Mary Schwark, Marcia Mandell, Mary Lynne Moellering and Jo Sillanpaa. We will work to identify some meeting dates.

Branch daffodil projects- Continue to encourage branches to begin daffodil projects in their own communities and report them to MI DIV or report on their already-existing daffodil projects. Mary added daffodil icons to branches that have individual branch projects in the winter and spring newsletters. If there are any public plantings of daffodils in your cities, let her know. Ann Hause is managing a spreadsheet for this project.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Board meeting TBD.

Sheila to provide an address for get well wishes for Renata Miller at rehab facility.

Adjourned at 12:10 pm

Submitted by Vicki Guntenaar  
Michigan Division Secretary

“The reports which were submitted by officers and other board members were edited only for the purpose of correct spelling, correct punctuation and/or clarification of meaning. There was no correction of substance.”