

Isanti County Master Gardener Meeting

September 14, 2017.

Educational Presentation: “Wine Making” by Ruth Paschke, Isanti County Master Gardener. Twenty-six people were present for the presentation.

Members Present: Holly Anderson, Barb Barry, Gretchen Beecroft, Debbie Bodnar, Duane Bunnell, Lucy Bunnell, Carolyn Dehn, Poppy Irwin, John Nordin, Ruth Paschke, Ken Schroepfer, April Tighe, Katie Walker, Dawn Watson, Joan Watson, Robin Weber, Carol Wood, Laura Yust, Wayne Yust.

Secretary’s Minutes: It was *moved, seconded and carried* to accept the August 10, 2017 minutes as distributed.

Treasurer’s Report: It was *moved, seconded and carried* to accept the treasurer’s report as presented.

Website Analytics: Joan Watson reported 44 website visits yesterday, 472 visits so far this month and 1220 visits last month.

Community Garden Report: Duane and Lucy Bunnell and John Nordin reported that an additional 8’x24’ shed will be built and ready for painters. There will be two sheds, one for master gardener equipment storage and one for community garden storage. This year there were 84 plots and 12 raised beds used with about 120 gardeners involved (some were group plots). Clean up will be October 14. Two strips were added this year for the community gardeners - one containing raspberries and one containing rhubarb. Registration for next year’s plots is now open. The community garden board is asking more involvement from the city regarding the community garden.

Farmers Market: Ken Schroepfer thanked all the master gardeners who worked at the Isanti and Cambridge farmers markets. Master gardeners are invited to help cover the booth at the Customer Appreciation Days , 4-8 p.m. on Sept. 15.

Burst Update: Holly Anderson and Robin Weber met with Burst committee leaders. The theme is “Water Wisely.” Julie Weisenhorn will be the keynote speaker. The armory has been confirmed for the March 10 Burst. Robin is creating a google document in which a timeline will be established for all duties pertaining to Burst. Past committee leaders are asked to share a duty list/timeline with Robin. Menu options for Burst are being researched. Ruth Paschke asked that the menu/price be determined before Thanksgiving, so that she can include the information in the vendor communication. The chair requested that the Burst committee decide on the menu and determine pricing to present at the October meeting. There will be a separate event and food price.

Highway 65 Cleanup: Because of the construction on Highway 65, there will not be a fall cleanup.

2018 Proposed Budget: Treasurer Dawn Watson presented the budget which was sent to members to look over and approve at the October meeting. Chair John Nordin asked that area leaders be concerned about their particular line item. If more funds are needed for your area, be ready to advocate for that at the October meeting.

2018 Intern Update: There is one solid application and 2 more possible applicants. It was *moved, seconded and carried* that the Master Gardener budget provide a \$150 reimbursement for up to six interns upon completion of the internship program in 2018.

Yard and Garden Report: Robin Weber reported one question about tomatoes.

MG Coordinator's Report: A candidate for president of the organization is still needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Beecroft
Secretary