

Collaborative UWEX-Master Gardener Meeting Minutes November 1, 2008

1. 2008 Activities

Racine/Kenosha

- Alternate monthly meeting locations in Racine County and in Kenosha County
- Eliminated monthly “pot luck” meetings without affecting attendance
- Meetings held on same date.
 - o Board/Officers Meeting at 5 pm.
 - o General Meeting at 6:30 pm
 - o Program Meeting at 7:15 pm.
 (Committees also meet the same date.)

Officers attended training on strategic planning. Training targeted toward non-profit organizations. Racine/Kenosha is currently a for-profit organization.

MGVs participate in Racine County Fair, Kenosha County Fair and help at the Wisconsin State Fair. Also participate in area Harbor Market.

Milwaukee/Waukesha

- Reviewed and updated bylaws that changed organizational structure.
- Reduced size and power of board members. Nine members now have equal status, rather than three members with control.
- Established a Finance Committee
- Established maximum three-year term
- Held 2008 Midwest Regional Conference
- Conducted membership survey

MGVs participate in Realtors Show, Garden & Landscape Show; State Fair and Milwaukee County Fair.

2. Similarities / Differences

	Racine/Kenosha	Milwaukee/Waukesha
Membership	211 ¹ 80% retention rate	476
Projects	32	44
Organization	For profit Established garden clubs help fund projects Each project encouraged to obtain grants / funding	Non profit Many approved projects receive supplemental funding from SEWMG
Project Approval	Group approves own projects. Reports due 10/1 (number volunteers; goals, etc.)	UWEX agents approve projects Reports due 10//31.
Project Review Committee	Ensures meet MGV	SEWMG will begin reviewing

¹ Less than 10% did not qualify

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Fundraiser	qualifications No fundraiser ²	projects in 2009 Perennial Plant Sale held in May
	Monthly 50/50 raffle Kenosha / Racine	Milwaukee / Waukesha

3. Past Successes

Racine/Kenosha

- All MGs-in-training specially invited to annual project fair (held during training)
- Each project has display board and each project leader has 2-3 minutes to talk about project. MGVs encouraged to sign up for individual projects.
- Easier to recruit co-chairs (leads) for projects. Approach helps foster project continuation.
- Shortened general meeting to 30 minutes. This gives time for conversation and sharing before program meeting.

Milwaukee/Waukesha

- Project leads have a few minutes to recruit volunteers during the training sessions. MGs-in-training have a chance to sign up. Sign-ups given to project lead to follow through. Many MGs sign up, but relatively few show up.
- Perennial Plant Sale - 2008 marked 13th year. It has become much more organized and profitable over the years.
- Six packs of plants suitable for butterfly gardens and shade conditions were very popular this year.
- A members-only sale is held Friday afternoon.
- MGs are trained on division/potting (ensuring quality) at start of "digs."
- Any remaining plants are first given to SEWMG projects and then to Habitat for Humanity.

4. Challenges

Kenosha/Racine

- Garden of Eden shut down due to contaminated soil. Needed to find and start a new location this year.
- Were not able to find jobs for five individuals who participated in Green Works program this year. More successful first and second year.
- Hort agents had sometimes approved projects where MGVs and children put at risk or for political reasons. Racine/Kenosha agents now serve as advisors for project review committee.

² Have funds from 2004 MG Conference

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Strategic Plan – hope to develop long-term plan.
 Rules for 501(c) (3) being revised and reporting will change

Milwaukee/Waukesha

- Attendance at 2008 conference lower than anticipated when contract with hotel was signed in 2005. SEWMG will host sit-down dinner at Wyndham for next two holidays to fulfill its financial obligation.
- SEWMG seems to have too many approved projects for number of volunteers. Unsure whether all projects have educational focus required. Approval granted by UWEX hort agents.
- 2008 Conference planning/executive required many volunteer hours. Some other projects may have suffered.
- Review Strategic Plan annually, but not implementation weak.
- Scholarships are budgeted but framework for awarding them not yet developed.

5. Evaluation of Meeting / Worthwhile?

- *Hoped to have a broader representation of MGV groups. First Saturday in November may be too early because of fall clean-up. Marcia will contact other groups to learn if they are interested in meeting again.*

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