

**Metro Blooms Board Meeting and  
Friends of CUE/Minneapolis Blooms Committee Meeting  
Minutes for July 11, 2007**

**Attendees (12):** Lori Anderson, Susan Diesel, Stephanie Boraas, Stephanie Brody, Susan Nelson, Julie Ollila, Joyce Vincent, Pamela Silver, Gayle Gallagher, Pat Gill, Meleah Maynard, Cherylyne Vaz

**Excused Absences (4):** Linda Schultz, Barbara Bliss, Ginny Coyle, Ed Juda

**Consulting Staff Attending:** Kristen Denzer, Program Coordinator; Mike Mesch, Lead Landscape Design Assistant

**Attachments** to these Minutes include: *Fiduciary Duties of Directors of Charitable Organizations, Blooms Board Member Job Description, Blooms Board Attendance Policy, 2007 Blooms Board Meeting Attendance, 2007 Rain Garden Attendance, 2006 narrative and financial reports.*

The joint Metro Blooms Board and Friends of CUE Minneapolis Blooms Committee meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m.

- 1) A Social Period was held.
- 2) June 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes were approved as amended. Susan Diesel moved that the minutes be approved, Stephanie Brody seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 3) There were no changes to the agenda. Pam Silver moved that the agenda be approved, Gayle Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 4) Annual Report Review. The annual report was reviewed along with the 2006 financial statement. Lori Anderson moved that the annual report be approved, Stephanie Brody seconded the motion. The motion passed. Stephanie Brody moved that the 2006 financial report be approved, Pat Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- 5) Board Member Responsibilities. The Board Member Job Description was reviewed. Three changes were suggested- to delete “top three charitable organizations, insert “financial” donation instead of “personal” donation, and add “when feasible” to when agenda items can be submitted. It was also discussed that Blooms needs to do a better job ensuring that board members are properly trained and provided the information they need when they start. The Fiduciary Responsibilities of Board Members was reviewed. Some concern was raised as to whether board members were personally liable for an organization. Kristen Denzer offered to research that topic and email everyone what was found. The Board Member Attendance Policy was reviewed. It was suggested that a sentence about exceptions be added to the policy. The changes will be made for the next board meeting.
- 6) Board Fundraising. In the fall we will be completing a fundraising campaign, and will be compiling annual reports from similar organizations to review donors for familiar names. We will also be reviewing our current donors and asking them to make a bigger donation, and board members will be writing personal notes on the “ask” letter. Lastly, we will be asking board members to provide 5-10 names of prospective donors for us to ask for a donation.
- 7) Workshop Update for 2007 and 2008. There have so far been 201 people that have completed the on-line survey regarding workshop topics they would be interested in. Seventy-five percent have attended our RGW. The top three choices for other gardening workshops for next spring are: Blooming All-Season-Long Perennial Gardens, Shade Gardening, and Controlling Garden Pests and Diseases without Poison. The survey also showed that most people prefer to pay \$10 for a workshop, prefer a 1.5 hour long workshop, and March is the top choice for workshop month. Attendance for 2007 workshops was also reviewed, and we have had 1108 people pay to attend our workshops- 900 for A workshops and 208 for B Seminars. For 2008 we will be expanding our workshops and have new partners with Washington Conservation District, and tentatively Lower Minnesota Watershed, and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed. St. Louis Park has also agreed to pay for an A workshop.
- 8) Alliance for Sustainability Conference. The conference is Saturday, February 23, 8:30am-4:30pm at Augsburg College. Our Blooms Committee expressed interesting being part of the event. There will be several topic tracks, including gardening and greenery. There are planning meetings in July, September, November, and January. There will be many city officials at the conference. Suze D., Pam S., Cherylyne V., and Stephanie Br. Will attend July meeting and will report back in August.
- 9) Strategic Planning Session Update. According to info Kristen presented, Minneapolis and Metro Blooms cannot have duplicate boards. There will also be further technical discussion of two-part organization. Options will be discussed at July 28<sup>th</sup> Strategic Planning meeting. There was difficulty in finding information for the external environmental scan of some related organizations.

- 10) Garden Evaluation Program Report. Pat reported on the status of garden nominations and evaluations. Suze will be coordinating the Garden Evaluation Program next year. There are 1,065 gardens evaluated so far this summer, which includes all of last year's, and 115 new gardens nominated so far this year.
- 11) Appreciation Party for Volunteers and Staff. The appreciation party will take place Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-8:30pm at Susan Diesel's house, 3700 Pleasant Ave., Mpls. Dinner will be at 6:30pm and awards at 7pm. Susan said she wants to donate food from Rudolph's Bar-B-Q for the event.

The joint Metro Blooms Board and Friends of CUE Minneapolis Blooms Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Denzer, Program Manager