Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council Board Meeting – October 11, 2010

Location: Zoo Atlanta - Atlanta, Georgia
Present in Attendance: Cynthia Taylor, Meghan Heeden, Stewart Chandler, Elaine Nash, Danielle Green, Karan Rawlins, Jim Allison, Malcolm Hodges, Brian Arnold

Meeting began at 9:50am

Financial Report
Elaine reported $10,779.42, minus the amount that will be reimbursed to Danielle to cover cost of lunch for board members present at meeting, in our bank account.
We have about 100 members

General Business
Discussion ensued regarding questionnaire for attendees of Annual Meeting. We’ve not followed up with attendees in the past. There is consensus that we must follow through with contacting attendees interested in getting involved.

Karan reported that Master Gardner conference in California went well and believes that Master Gardner’s are a resource that needs to be utilized in our efforts.

Cynthia addressed the need to update website.
Karan will create link from website to blog site.
Cynthia and Brian will meet separately to settle on changes to website.

Malcolm stated that more “workshops” are needed, and that we need to have a summertime workshop. Karan would like a workshop in South Georgia too.
There is general agreement that Griffin is a site that will work well for North and South Georgia.
Malcolm stated that EDDMaps training needs to be a portion of workshop. There is general agreement.
See “Other Business” below

**Annual Meeting**
Danielle will manage refreshments
Cynthia will manage nametags
Malcolm and Elaine will work registration table
Cynthia will bring materials for on site credit card registration
Cynthia asked if speaker issues are covered. Brian said yes.
See “Additional Annual Meeting Business” below

**Newsletter**
No articles have been submitted to Brian to date. Brian will create a newsletter – may be a short version. Good to maintain at least one issue per year.

**Call to Mincy Moffett at 10:30 am** (remained on phone through remainder of meeting and participated in voting)

**Plant List**
Mincy reported that he spoke with Richard Carter, earlier in morning, and that Richard believes that the “Homeowner” list being developed is too extensive.
Richard believes a simpler list is needed for homeowners.
Discussion ensued about not categorizing plants on homeowner list.
There is discussion regarding Homeowner List. There is general consensus that issues must be worked out, and that there isn’t enough time to do so prior to the Annual Meeting.
Mincy will send Plant List (main list - not the Homeowner List) to Karan so that she can place pictures with plants.
Mincy will tidy up Plant List (main list - not the Homeowner List) and route to board members for comment. Plant List needs to be routed per above within 1 week. Board members must in turn provide comments from 1 week of receiving list. Timing is important so as to provide time for printing prior to Annual Meeting. Mincy recommends placing plants that are undecided upon, into Category 3 until ultimate placement is decided.

List is to be available at the Annual Meeting. It must be clear to viewers of list that it is currently under review and revision process – current list is likely to be revised.

**Board Members and Officers**

Cynthia states that Gary Wade has recommended Matthew Chappell to replace him on the board. Matthew is a Nursery Production Specialist with UGA Cooperative Extension Service.

Danielle must resign from the board.

Cynthia must resign from board.

Danielle recommended Blake Watkins, invasive specialist of Trees Atlanta, or Dave Butler of Dekalb County as possible board replacements.

Stewart stated that John Ruter, of UGA, may be a good candidate. Other members stated that he had been asked in the past and declined.

Brian expressed concern that board may be viewed as too “urban” with addition of a board member from Trees Atlanta or Dekalb County. Discussion ensued regarding that being an issue in the past.

Brian stated that Kim Crider, a Research Ecologist with U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station, may be willing to serve on board. She was recently stationed in Georgia and has expressed interest in getting involved. Malcolm stated that having a board member on “federal level” will be good for board. Members should invite respective candidates to next board meeting.

Cynthia suggested moving Jim Allison to a voting member position.

Elaine made motion to move Jim to voting member – 2nd by Stewart – all in favor
Malcolm made motion to approve Matthew Chappell to board – 2nd by Karan – all in favor
Mincy reported that he must step down from President Elect but can remain on the board
Discussion ensued regarding officers.
Meghan agrees to accept nomination as Secretary if Brian will accept Presidency.
Brian states reservations regarding acceptance of presidency. Some discussion takes place. Brian states that he will be honored to serve as president, should that be the boards desire.
Brian suggested Karan as President Elect. Karan states that she is willing to serve as President Elect and believes she will have support of those that she reports to.
Elaine made motion that a two year term is served with the following:
  Brian - President
  Karan – President Elect
  Meghan – Secretary
  Elaine – Treasurer
  2nd by Malcolm, all others in favor
Cynthia will present officer nominees at Annual Meeting – for membership to vote on
Cynthia will work on getting room for January board meeting

**Additional Annual Meeting Business**
Brian asked board members to find three people to extend a personal invitation to register for A.M. – need to increase registration
Cynthia stated she will contact GFC and NRCS
Danielle asked Brian to request speakers to submit presentations couple days before the meeting. This will help Zoo “tech” folks. Brian will make respective request.

Danielle, Brian, Stewart and Meghan agree to help direct attendees to meeting room

Stewart agrees to help Brian process CEU applications

The need for a banner to erect at meetings is discussed.

Karan made motion to have banner made – 2nd by Jim – all in favor

Cynthia will have the banner made. Banner may not be made by A.M.

Brian to send Cynthia and Elaine updated Agenda. Cynthia will make copies for attendees and Elaine to send to current membership.

Brian suggested an appreciation token for speakers. There is consensus in favor. Elaine will check on “bags” that were used few years back and that will serve this purpose well.

**Other Business**

Malcolm requested that a committee for summer workshop be formed.

Elaine, Jim, Karan, and Stewart agree to be part of summer workshop committee.

It is suggested that workshop be held by June due to summer heat.

Brian made motion to adjourn – 2nd by Danielle – all in favor