

**Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society**



2018

Annual Report

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vern Hunter, President

DiAnn and I travel a lot, and we always look for Botanic Gardens in each location. This past summer we visited Gardens in Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky; Birmingham, Alabama; Morgantown, West Virginia; Knoxville, Tennessee; Portland, Oregon; and for the umpteenth time, the beautiful gardens at Como Park and the Minnesota Arboretum in Chanhassen. These visits are entertaining, inspirational, informative and full of ideas to apply locally. These gardens are all a source of pride for their staffs and communities. It's surprising how many of them are in a similar situation as we are – young in age, seeking badly needed funds and volunteers, and in many cases on property that was formerly a private estate or enterprise that has been willed to park and recreation uses. Some of them have been left an endowment to assure their future, but like us, many rely on outside funding sources. They are described on City maps and websites as “places to go” and “things to see while here”. They are a source of pride and an economic gain for the local economy.

The Northern Plains Botanic Gardens haven't reached that point yet but with your help we can get there. It's amazing the progress we have made with limited funds and public support. There is no reason why the Fargo-Moorhead area shouldn't have a world-class collection of gardens and other attractions on our site that will draw local, as well as visitors from distant places.

Consider for instance how far we have to go to visit a Japanese Garden – St. Paul to the east and west to the coast. We have initiated interest in such a garden through Japanese contacts, beginning awareness of the Japanese culture with displays of our Hina Doll collection, construction of a Japanese-like entrance to an area designated for a Japanese-like Garden. Funds are not yet available to continue planning nor construction of this Garden. Successful grant writing last year will make it possible to begin construction of an Edible Forest this summer that is unique to the State, and valuable for demonstrating public involvement, educational food-producing opportunities and techniques.

These are just two examples of Gardens which, if given adequate support, could jumpstart our way to a greater future.

Lack of our own venue denies us a great opportunity for fund-raising events, workshops, demonstrations, exhibits, and programs. Without a suitable indoor space we are also limited to a four-month operation. How well a 12-month acclimated conservatory would serve us and those seeking relief from long winter months - this is a facility that the Public would support!

As always, we appreciate your past support. For the first time we were able to have a paid gardener on site these past two summers and what a difference it made. Our plans for this summer will require hiring several additional part time gardeners, only possible because of your financial support. If you are a paid member, you received our Newsletters and occasional news notes describing our accomplishments over the past year.

We sent a survey to a limited membership asking how we can improve - you answered and we heard. We are initiating a Master Plan process where we will incorporate as many of your ideas as possible, and we now have a committee structure with responsibility for positive results in many subjects. One of your common survey requests was to offer more children's activities. We plan to do that with closer alliance of the Children's Museum at Yunker Farm. Also look for NPBGS-sponsored field trips to other gardens

in the region and more workshops and programs with relevant topics you have suggested. If you weren't included in the survey, don't be shy: let us know what you would like us to do. It is your Garden after all, and you have a say in its future.

In addition, what can you do? See if your membership is current. Commit to a few hours at the site, on a given day, every week, to plant, weed, and water (the staples of any garden). Then sit with your friend for the remainder of the day in the shade of the woodland garden to enjoy and take pride in your accomplishments. Enjoy your Gardens!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This past year was infused with new energy from new and returning Board members.

The Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society signed a Concession Agreement with the Fargo Park District on July 10, 2018. This new agreement permits NPBGS to proceed with our plans to expand the gardens on the southeast 6 acres of Yunker Park. We appreciate those who did much of the work that went into the creation of this agreement, particularly Jim Larson and Dave Bietz of the Fargo Park District, and Brandi Malarkey and Vern Hunter of NPBGS, all of whom worked many hours on this. We have an outline for a new master plan for the site, and we hope to develop the master plan in the coming year.

Our new agreement enabled us to pursue some projects at the botanic garden site. We designed and installed a new "Northern Plains Botanic Garden" sign by the parking lot and proceeded with constructing the foundation of the Dry Garden south of the Japanese gate. In addition, we approved the redesign of the Edible Forest plan, which was designed with the help of Vern Hunter, Jim Hanson, Jerry Raguse, and the Arboretum Committee. Under the leadership of Vern Hunter, NPBGS submitted a grant to the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund for the Edible Forest, which was approved by the North Dakota Industrial Commission in September. Grant funds totaling \$33,601 will be paid starting in 2019 as a match share of NPBGS' project expenditures, and will cover approximately one third of the project's total costs. We look forward to generating community support in 2019 for this project.

Other Board activity included updating the NPBGS website (www.npbotanicgarden.com), which is now mobile friendly, and recovering access to our formal Facebook account which is accessible via this link: (<https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Plains-Botanic-Garden-Society-229935707071688/>). In addition, the Board has worked towards improved e-mail communications with our members and initiated NPBGS data file cloud storage via www.box.org, from which we received free data storage as a qualifying non-profit organization. We thank Brandi Malarkey, Matt Sorenson, Arielle Windham, Lisa Brown, and Ruth Morton for their work on these projects which will serve NPBGS well in our digital and virtual world.

The Board initiated the reactivation of the Membership, Public Relations, and Program/Events Committees. We appreciate those who have joined these committees, and we thank these committee chairpersons for their efforts in reorganizing these committees: Ann Riley (Membership); Brandi Malarkey (Public Relations); and co-chairs Arielle Windham and Bill Fradet (Program/Events). Also, the Board proposed a restructuring of NPBGS Committees at a Board Retreat in October, and a change in the Constitution and Bylaws to reflect this restructuring, which will be voted on by the Membership at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

INCOME and EXPENSE REPORT - 2018

Income

Foundation Contributions	3500.00
Individual Business Contributions	1640.00
Annual Pledges	2790.00
Annual Membership Dues	4375.00
Donations (Request Letter)	2155.35
Bank Interest	89.70
Miscellaneous Revenue	4058.15
Recycling	38.26
Garden and Indoor Plant Design (West Acres)	768.38
West Acres Contract	37,836.00
Workshop Tuition	55.00
Event Ticket Sales	3875.00
Event Revenue	9304.42
Event Sponsorships	1975.00
Event Donations (Tip Jar, Keep the Change)	69.00

Total Income

72,529.26

Expenses

Business Registration Fees	50.00
Dues & Subscriptions	310.00
Accounting Fees	750.00
Outside Contract Services (garden)	8516.82
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	933.71
Repairs & Maintenance	264.49
Utilities (Water, Electricity)	1006.71
Website	3956.50
Hardware/Software	42.74
Merchant Service Fees	1991.29
Credit Card Equipment Rental	1644.56
Event Supplies	397.89
Event Food	1182.00
Event Other Expenses	448.43
Public Relations & Advertising	219.74
West Acres Project Expenses	2060.04
Garden Expenses	5595.95
Postage, Mailing Service	573.50
Printing & Photocopying	815.25
Insurance	2322.00
Signage	1037.50
Other Costs	30.00
Other Types of Expenses	1260.00
Conference, Convention, Meeting	25.00

Total Expenses

35,434.12

Net Income

37,095.14

NPBGS

2018 Account Balances

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Balance, 1 January</u>	<u>Balance, 31 December</u>
Checking	\$61,367.06	\$31,730.04
Restricted Savings		
Money Market Savings: Japanese Garden Fund	\$5,195.60	\$8,714.60
Money Market Savings: Building Fund - JG Only	\$3,519.00	\$0.00
Money Market Savings: Dry Garden in JG	\$0.00	\$2,704.96
Money Market Savings: Memorial for Alma T. Tucker	\$225.00	\$225.00
Money Market Savings: Iris Garden- Irene Rust Memorial	\$1,164.00	\$1,164.00
Money Market Savings: Horticultural Intern Fund	\$0.00	\$1,640.00
Total Restricted Savings	\$10,103.60	\$14,448.56
Savings Unrestricted	\$5,753.06	\$68,685.06
Reserved for Executive Director Fees	\$857.00	\$0.00
Money Market Savings - Interest		\$79.26
Total Money Market Savings	\$16,713.66	\$83,212.88
Martha Lee Memorial Conservatory Fund (Alerus CD)	\$4,155.82	\$4,166.26
Raffle Account	-\$65.00	\$0.00
Total Checking/Savings	\$82,171.54	\$119,109.18
Total Assets	\$82,171.54	\$119,109.18
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$82,014.04	\$82,014.04
Net Income	\$157.50	\$37,095.14
Total Equity	\$82,171.54	\$119,109.18
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$82,171.54	\$119,109.18

DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE

Fundraising:

Tea Time at the Atrium: \$4,429.49 net income, in support of Dry Garden

Spring Plant Sale: \$3,939.35 net income, in support of Botanic Garden

Edible Forest: \$4,352 (includes 2019 Tea Sponsor donations)

Grants:

William and Anna Jane Schlossman Fund of the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation: \$1,000

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund: \$33,601 (Edible Forest; to be paid in 2019; 40% match)

City of Fargo Social Service Fund: not funded (\$22,375 requested for Edible Forest)

Corporate Donations:

Bell Bank & Trust: \$1,640 for establishment of the Horticultural Intern Fund

Bell Bank & Trust Pay It Forward, via Sharon Gully: \$1,000 for Botanic Garden Support

West Acres Development, LLC: \$2,500 for Botanic Garden Support

Event Sponsors: \$2,000 (\$1500 for 2018 Tea; \$500 for 2019 Tea, for Edible Forest)

Pledges: \$1,630

Other Individual Donations: \$640, from 6 individuals

Memberships: \$4,370

West Acres Landscapes Project: \$30,000 (Marketing initiative via landscapes services)

Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres: \$3,135 (market vendor fees)

Working Sub-Committees:

Tea Time at the Atrium: Ann Riley, Joyce Pettinger, Ruth Morton, Loretta Wickie, Lisa Brown, Felicia Cooper, Don DuBord & Naomi Nakamoto

Spring Plant Sale: Don DuBord, Maurice Degrugillier, Lou Worner, Ruth Morton, & Lisa Brown

Edible Forest Task Force: Brandi Malarkey, Caroline McGuire, Marissa Gapp, & Vern Hunter

We are very grateful for our sponsors, corporate supporters and individual donors. We especially appreciate the opportunity to work with West Acres in helping them with their Landscapes design. This project gives us great visibility and we are thankful for West Acres' support of NPBGS.

Finance Committee: Lisa Brown*, Vern Hunter, Ruth Morton, and Brandi Malarkey.

GARDEN and OPERATIONS

For this year and in 2017, our contract gardener, Lou Worner, has been a major factor in helping NPBGS improve and maintain our gardens at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden. We hope to engage two additional part-time contract gardeners for 2019.

The new Kids' Activity Zone was designed and installed by Lou Worner along the south side of the Alphabet Garden. This area features a hopscotch bridge, a *Thunbergia* Tunnel, balance boards and jump rings. Breanna Thompson and Sara Worner assisted with the installation. We plan to create a new access point for this area, along with enhanced landscaping, in 2019.

The Alphabet Garden had continued rejuvenation with more letter plots filled with color and diverse plants. We expect to focus on a few letters every year for rejuvenation, so this process is ongoing. The Alphabet Garden, Sensory Garden and Kids Activity Zone were renamed *The Children's Garden*.

The Chrysanthemum Garden was revived with fresh soil and amendments, and new mums were planted in the summer, which created a beautiful display this past fall.

A new patio was installed by Lou Worner in the Woodland Garden. The Dry Garden crew helped move class 5 material to the area that had been excavated, and Lou moved many pavers and did the paver installation. We thank Concordia College for the numerous pallets of donated pavers, and Tom and Ann Riley for the donated patio furniture. We now have a more inviting patio area with these pavers!

The Fairy Garden was relocated along the west side and expanded near the walking bridge and dry creek. New features were designed, created and installed by the Fairy Garden Crew, with lead inspiration provided by Ina Lyon.

Our grapes were harvested by Lou Worner, which she and her granddaughter made into numerous jars of grape jelly which are for sale to benefit NPBGS.

The Food Pantry Gardens grown by Maurie Degrugillier, Kris Schipper and Shaun Schipper produced an abundance of produce, including squash, peppers, tomatoes, and eggplant among other vegetables. Harvested vegetables, plus donated apples from Bob Swanson, were donated to the Fargo-Moorhead Emergency Food Pantry in Fargo. Total weight of donated produce was 2,025 pounds! We thank them for their gardening efforts which help to feed people in our community. The Food Pantry Garden will be relocated and redesigned in 2019, to accommodate the future Edible Forest.

Operations worked on plans and survey work for a storage maintenance garage. Due to City of Fargo site elevation requirements, this project was put on hold until NPBGS has a comprehensive Master Plan.

The Dry Garden work showed a renewal of activity at the botanic garden this past year. Key work by Operations included the survey and excavation work for the Dry Garden, plus the installation of the class 5 material, and relocation and placement of numerous rocks and boulders along the garden's edge. Lou Worner constructed and installed the Dry Garden bridge, with help from Vern Hunter and Maurie Degrugillier. Dry Garden excavation work was done with the leadership of Jerry Raguse, Vern Hunter and Jeff Moreau with assistance from Maurie Degrugillier. We thank Shaun Schipper and his crew for their help with the class 5 material and boulder installation, plus volunteers Lou Worner, Don DuBord, Lisa Brown, Vern Hunter and Maurie Degrugillier. Some of the rocks were contributed by the Fargo Park District, and the very large boulders had been procured in the past by Marilyn West. We thank them for the boulders and rocks that created a beautiful foundation for this new garden! Plants will be added to this garden in 2019, which will help create a very beautiful presence at the south end of the botanic garden. Survey work for the Edible Forest was initiated in the fall, in preparation for construction in spring, 2019.

NPBGS continues to care for the Atrium plants at 700 1st Ave S, Fargo, which is now the new Sanford Neuroscience Clinic. We are grateful to the former Neuropsychiatric Research Institute and to Sanford Neuroscience Clinic for use of space in this facility. NPBGS has maintained the Atrium plants since 1999. Atrium volunteers: Lou Worner, Lisa Brown, Mary Ann Nagle, Nicole Stepan and Theresa Gross.

Garden and Operations Committee: Ruth Morton*, Jerry Raguse*, Maurie Degrugillier, Lou Worner, Vern Hunter, and Lisa Brown. **Subcommittee - Arboretum:** Vern Hunter, Maurice Degrugillier, Jim Hanson, Caroline McGuire, Jerry Raguse, Jim Walla, Dan Johnson, Jim Anderson, Brandi Malarkey; Edible Forest Project advisors: Sam DeMarais, Todd West and Dale Herman.

PROGRAM and EVENTS

The second annual *Conversations and Cocoa* jump started the New Year with hot cocoa and conversation on January 27th at the NRI Atrium. A new photo-op “picture frame” was made by Brandi and Landra Malarkey, and was used by participants to pose for photos in front of the atrium plants and post on social media. To celebrate National Seed Swap Day, a seed exchange was encouraged, but few participated.

A *Hinamatsuri Japanese Dolls Exhibition* was held at the Spirit Room, March 2 – April 14th. An evening reception on March 3rd was hosted by NPBGS at the Spirit Room, which included refreshments, and a talk presented by Dr. Ann Braaten, Curator of the Emily P. Reynolds Costume Collection at NDSU. Ann spoke about the story and historic role of the Hina Dolls in Japanese culture. Vern Hunter spoke about NPBGS, and Shaun Schipper played guitar and sang his botanic garden song. Also, a *Blessing for Young Girls* reception was held on Sunday afternoon, March 18th, at the Spirit Room. Blessings were bestowed upon young girls in attendance by an Episcopal priest, a Native American spiritualist, and a Zen Buddhist, and Dr. Ann Braaten gave a short talk about the Hinamatsuri.

NPBGS hosted its 20th *Annual Meeting* at the NRI Atrium on March 14th. Keynote Speaker Don Kinzler gave a presentation on “Secrets to Successful Shade Gardening”. Approximately 47 people attended. Lou Worner received the *Member of the Year* award for her work in 2017.

NPBGS participated in the Fargo Park District’s 2018 *Garden Party at Rheault Farm* on April 28th. NPBGS volunteers Ruth Morton, Maurie Degrugillier, Mary Ann Nagle, Marie Dill and Becky McCleary, showed many kids how to plant a sunflower seed in a small pot made of newspaper, and how to make a simple bag out of newspaper.

A *Beneficial Insect Hotel Workshop* was held at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden on July 16th in the early evening. Lou Worner, who led the workshop, created some bug hotel frames, which participants filled with assorted natural materials for attracting beneficial insects. Three adults and three children participated. On the same date, NPBGS hosted the Red River Watercolor Society and the Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists for a *Draw In* plein air outdoor event, in which artists and photographers toured the Northern Plains Botanic Garden and spent time drawing, painting and photographing garden areas of interest to them. Approximately 30 artists attended.

A *Nature Portrait Parent-Child Workshop* was led by Artist Sandra Miles on the morning of August 25th at the NPBGS Greenhouse. Children and parents were shown how and encouraged to draw and paint flowers and other natural items.

Pumpkin Painting at the Northern Plains Farmers Market at West Acres: approximately 70 kids participated. Pumpkins were provided the vendors and pumpkin painting supplies were provided by Vern Hunter and West Acres.

Program and Events Committee: Arielle Windham*, Bill Fradet*, Elly Heinz, Cynthia Herfindahl, and Denise Quick.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

2018 saw a renewal of the Public Relations Committee. The NPBGS website (www.npbotanicgarden.com) was redesigned to be mobile friendly and useful for online donations, membership contributions, and communications. Also, the official Facebook page was recovered and is in active use, in addition to the informal group Facebook page. E-mail communications were increased with biweekly news to members and volunteers, and NPBGS started utilizing Mail Chimp for better format and graphics. A display rack card was created and distributed to various locations within Fargo-Moorhead, and work was initiated to develop a new NPBGS brochure, which will be finished in spring, 2019. The committee initiated the process of redesigning many of our public materials, and began development of a comprehensive plan to increase NPBGS visibility throughout the community. This Committee is open to any volunteers who think it would be fun to further these public relations efforts.

Public Relations Committee: Brandi Malarkey*, Barbara Vilella, Arielle Windham, Matt Sorenson, Tori Wayne, and Lisa Brown.

MEMBERSHIP and VOLUNTEERS

MEMBERSHIP

Membership declined in 2018 from 182 to 103 paying Members. The Membership and Volunteers Committee worked on phone contacts of lapsed members, with mixed results. Few program events in the past year limited opportunities for recruitment of new members. NPBGS' focus in 2018 was on rebuilding the Board of Directors, investing in a redesigned website and working on the botanic garden. With a refreshed website, new Board energy and an expanding botanic garden, NPBGS believes that our membership will increase in 2019. The Membership Committee will focus on membership recruitment, retention, and membership benefits in 2019. In addition, the Committee will be tasked with Volunteer Engagement and Board Nominations.

Membership Contributions Total: \$4,370

- 94 Total Payments (4 payments were duplicate payments (member paid twice in 2018))
- 103 Total Members (organizations; Individuals; Lifetime Members - combined)
- 99 Individual Members paid in 2018
- 2 Organizations as Members
- 2 Lifetime Members
- 82 Non-renewing individuals

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. We are a volunteer-based organization with no paid staff. We greatly appreciate the many hours of work – seen and unseen – that keep our gardens growing, our outreach expanding and our mission going. We salute our volunteers for all that they have done and accomplished on behalf of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society!

Here is a glimpse at some of the volunteer work done in 2018:

Atrium: 5 volunteers contributed a total of 142 hours at the NRI/Sanford Neuroscience Clinic Atrium.
Northern Plain Farmers' Market at West Acres: 6 volunteers worked a total of 294 hours.

Northern Plains Botanic Garden: 22 volunteers worked at least 400 hours, but many volunteer hours were not recorded for the Dry Garden work and other gardening activity. It was suggested that we create a standardized volunteer log sheet for the gardens. Special recognition is given to Concordia College's *Hands for Change Day of Service* group of 20 students who helped mulch the trees and raked the earth mounds on August 27th, for a total of 60 additional volunteer hours.

West Acres Plant Scape Design: 10 volunteers worked 152 hours.

Tea Time at the Atrium: 34 volunteers worked an untold number of hours.

Spring Plant Sale: 11 volunteers, many hours planting, repotting and selling plants!

Membership and Volunteers Committee: Ann Riley*, Darlene Rogers, Jackie Jones, Marie Dill, Shirley Manning

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2018

Vern Hunter, President (prior Board service: 2003-2008; March, 2018 – March, 2020)

Jerry Raguse, Vice President (March, 2018 – March, 2021)

Lisa Brown+, Secretary (effective March, 2016 – March, 2019; third term, non-consecutive)

Ruth Morton, Treasurer (prior Board service: 2009 – 2014; March, 2018 – March, 2021)

Bill Fradet, (effective March 2017 – March, 2020; second term)

Brandi Malarkey (March, 2018 – March, 2019; one-year term)

Ann Riley (prior Board service: 2001 – 2007; March, 2018 – March, 2020)

Matt Sorenson**

Arielle Windham**

John Zvirovski*, Interim President (March, 2017 – March, 2018; end of one-year, third term)

Don Kinzler (May, 2015 – March, 2018; first term)

*End of Second Term in March, 2017; started third term of one year that ends in March, 2018

**Interim Appointment by Pres. Vern Hunter, effective 2 Sept. 2018 - 12 March 2019

+Appointed by Pres. Jim Anderson, effective March 21st, 2016

NORTHERN PLAINS BOTANIC GARDEN SOCIETY
MINUTES: ANNUAL MEETING
March 14, 2018
At the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute, Atrium
700 1st Ave S, Fargo, ND

Secretary Lisa Brown convened the 20th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society at 7:05 p.m. She introduced our Keynote Speaker, Don Kinzler, who is a lifetime gardener, the garden columnist for Forum Communications and an outgoing Board Member of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society. Don previously operated Kinzler's Greenhouse in Fargo, and formerly worked at North Dakota State University in horticulture.

Mr. Kinzler gave a presentation on the "Secrets to Successful Shade Gardening". He mentioned the importance of considering quantity and quality of shady areas, and that shade is something to be embraced in the landscape. He mentioned the key elements to consider, including: analysis of degrees of shade; soil quality in shady areas, including soil amendments (organic materials) under trees; plant materials (annuals versus perennials) that can grow in deep shade, moderate shade, or light shade; houseplants in shade; and temporal considerations of plant materials for optimizing their growth, flowering, pruning and transplanting times.

A number of people asked questions after the 40 minute presentation. Ann Riley proceeded to draw tickets for selecting door prize recipients, which were distributed to selected winners. Three books by Eric Bergeson ([Successful Gardening on the Northern Prairie](#)), three NPBGS Coffee Mugs, each with an 8 ounce jar of NPBGS Grape Jam, and one hand-made denim gardening apron with work gloves were distributed as prizes.

The meeting broke at 8:00 p.m. for refreshments and socializing in the NRI Atrium. Refreshments included berry cheesecake tarts provided by Brandi Malarkey to commemorate "Pi Day", plus a 20th Anniversary "Celebrating 20 Years and Growing" sheet cake procured by Ann Riley.

The Business Meeting convened at 8:30 p.m. in the Conference Rooms. Non-members were invited to attend, but were informed that they would not be eligible to vote for Board Members during the election portion of the meeting. **NPBGS Members Present:** Lisa Brown (presiding), Ruth Morton, Ann Riley, Tom Riley, Brandi Malarkey, Sandra Miles, Joan Faust, Dale Herman, Don Kinzler, Jerry Raguse, Cynthia Herfindahl, Lou Worner, Maurie Degrugillier, Kris Schipper, Vern Hunter, DiAnn Hunter, Joyce Pettinger, Tom Pettinger, Ron Ellingson, Reid Curtis, Susan Curtis, Denise Quick, Theresa Gross, Dan Johnson, and Don DuBord.

Lisa welcomed all and mentioned that some Charter Members were in attendance at this 20th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society.

Minutes: The Minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting were reviewed. Vern Hunter made a motion that the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2017 be approved. Joyce Pettinger seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Income and Expense Report: Lisa Brown reviewed the 2017 Income and Expense Report and gave an explanation of the NPBGS finances to date. Tom Pettinger inquired if tangible assets are included with financial assets in the report (they are not; NPBGS maintains a separate inventory of tangible assets). Maurie Degrugillier made a motion to approve the financial report, which Tom Pettinger seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

State of the Society: Lisa Brown spoke briefly about the State of the Society, as follows:

“This past year we worked on: reconnecting and defining our Membership; concentrating on the gardens at the Botanic Garden as our programmatic focus; and revising our Master Plan with a smaller scale and focus. (Vern Hunter will give a brief overview of the Master Plan, later.) It’s amazing that it has been 20 years, and we are almost beginning to start our 21st year!

We have come a long way in the last 20 years, which started with the ideal of building a conservatory in a botanic garden with an arboretum. We have not yet attained that, and perhaps it isn’t feasible, but we don’t give up and we will still pursue that!

I remember our lowest point was in 2002 or 2003, when our treasury dwindled down to \$75! We knew we had to do something, so we had a few garage sales, started earnest fundraising with the Autumn Wine Tasting, the Tour of Garden Tables Luncheon, and concerted fundraising appeals through the Development and Finance Committees. Grants and donors, pledges and memberships have helped us throughout these 20 years. YOU, our supporters, have sustained us; YOU are our foundation; and YOU are the reason why we are still here. For that, we are very grateful!

There are THREE THINGS that will keep us going in the future – three things that I would like all of us to remember. Let the following be our “motto” for the year: I.V.Y.! Think of it as the “IVY” League. Not the Big 10; not the PAC 12; not the Summit League... the IVY LEAGUE. What do I mean by IVY?

I – as in INDIVIDUALS MATTER. Every one of us has helped grow this organization in our own way. Working together with our collective talents and energy, we have forged a synergy of strong community through which we have, we can, and we will grow a Botanic Garden! INDIVIDUALS MATTER.

V – VOLUNTEERS are VALUED. We value and appreciate our volunteers! We strive, moving forward, to always show appreciation, and seek input, from our volunteers! VOLUNTEERS ARE VALUED.

Y- WHY Y, you ask? Y is for YOUTH who are greatly needed! We need to engage and enrich and cultivate the interest of our youth in the Horticultural, Botanical and Natural Sciences and Arts. WE must get our YOUTH interested, energized, and excited about the Botanic Garden and gain their support. YOUTH ARE NEEDED. IVY: INDIVIDUALS MATTER; VOLUNTEERS ARE VALUED; YOUTH ARE NEEDED! So let’s grow like a vine of IVY this year and reach out to others as we grow our Botanic Garden.”

Board Election: Members present were given ballots to complete. There were 7 open Board positions, but only 5 nominees were on the ballot: Vern Hunter, Brandi Malarkey, Ruth Morton, Jerry Raguse and Ann Riley. Lisa asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Lisa tallied the ballots while Vern Hunter gave a brief presentation on the revised Master Plan.

Master Plan: Vern Hunter said that exciting things will be happening this year in 2018. He gave an overview of the Master Plan, using two maps he created for the site with the new additions that will occur this year, and in the future. He mentioned that we always have the Conservatory in our goal for the future. The second phase is the Botanic gardens. The third phase is to focus on the Arboretum. The first phase of the Arboretum will be the Edible Forest. Plans are underway to expand the Alphabet Garden. NPBGS will purchase the plants and will help tend the garden, but volunteers are needed to maintain it. Vern mentioned that NPBGS is writing a grant to the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund for the Edible Forest project – due August 1.

Lisa thanked Vern for his presentation. She announced that the elections were a unanimous vote for all on the ballot. Board terms of service will be staggered and specific terms for new Board Members will be

assigned by the Board. Also, the new President and Vice President will be elected at the 15 March 2018 Board Meeting. NPBGS will seek two additional Board Members this year.

Constitution & Bylaws: Some proposed changes were made by the Board and the NPBGS membership received the revised Constitution & Bylaws via e-mail one week prior to the Annual Meeting advising them of the proposed changes. The revisions included reducing the size of the Board from 15 members to 9. Also, core committees and committee functions were more clearly defined. Vern Hunter made a motion that the revised Constitution and Bylaws be approved as written. Don Kinzler seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Lisa asked the five newly elected Board Members to stand to be recognized.

Member of the Year Award: Lisa reported that it is a tradition to have a Member of the Year Award, but some years NPBGS did not give it. In 1998 – the first year of the organization – Marilyn West received the award. A list of previous Member of the Year Award recipients was on the display table. Lisa let the audience know how the recipient of the year first came to the gardens, in June of 2017, when she adopted the letter “L” in the alphabet garden. This person proceeded to work hard to improve the Alphabet Garden, and worked to water and maintain the gardens. In addition, she constructed a new Woodland Garden bridge, helped with the West Acres Plantscapes project, and maintained the NRI Atrium plants. For her many hours of hard work and effort, for her help in reviving the Garden Committee, and for sharing her talents, Ms. Lou Worner was awarded the 2017 Member of the Year Award. A plaque, a monetary gift from NPBGS founder, Dr. Chiwon Lee, and a book about Midwest Perennials was given to Lou. (Photo taken)

Open Discussion and Questions: Lisa mentioned that our 2017 net income will need to be spent in 2018, and part of that may go towards improving our web site. Sandra Miles said that the Red River Watercolor Society has a building fund to manage excess funds. There was no other discussion, nor announcements or questions.

Vern made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Ann Riley seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Following the meeting there was a photograph taken by the fountain in the Atrium of the NPBGS Charter Members present, including: Ruth Morton, Tom and Joyce Pettinger, Dale Herman, Ron Ellingson, and Lisa Brown.

Minutes recorded and compiled by

Lisa Brown and Ann Riley