

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2018, OSU Extension Service Office

Attendees:

Bitter, Linda; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Carlson, Dennis; DeTar, Laurel; Flick, Cathy; Johnson, LJ; Montag, Sandy; Nastasi, Heidi; Rousseau, Sandi; Slagle, Nancy; Stevens, John; Sturman, Bill; Suits, Rachel; Winfield, Bill

Secretary's Report (Christie): Heidi sent the minutes for the February meeting and they were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Nancy): Nancy sent out the financials and the activity was low, most having to do with the greenhouse.

Extension Report (Rachel): Plant clinic training is starting for the new Master Gardeners. Mentors will not be required to attend this year, but they may if they want to. Plant clinics start in April and will begin ramping up in May. A few questions are starting to come in. The Saturday plant clinics will be alternating between Hood River Supply and the farmer's market. Hood River Supply will probably store a table and chairs for us, so all we'll have to take is a tote. Most activities have been added to Shiftboard.

The county is still deciding whether to add a special tax to the ballot. There are many things that are up in the air for funding. If some kind of funding is not approved, there may be layoffs for those who work for the county. If that happens, Rachel would be included in the layoffs and the Master Gardener program would end, unless we ran it without her. The extension offices would be closed, so we would have to find somewhere else to meet. We may want to strategize in a brainstorming session for that possibility and try to be proactive. The county does value the work that extension does.

The county is also considering a service district proposal. More than half of the counties in Oregon have one, and it provides more stable funding. There seems to be a general lack of understanding from the public on what services the county provides, and this needs to be communicated.

OSU Report (Sandy M): Sandy attended the quarterly meeting. Most of the meeting was focused on Mini College, which will be called Growing Gardeners (G2). The goal is to have 2/3 of the presentation cover advanced content, with 80% of the presentations counting toward training hours. There will be two keynote speakers. Lodging will be at Linfield College in the dorms.

There will be another silent auction, which is a fundraiser for OMGA grants and scholarships. Sandy will be collecting donations for this, and she needs to receive them by the end of June. Some of the suggested donations are garden art and gift certificates. Shari is in search of items to put into a gift basket for the Send-A-Friend raffle at the G-2 and welcomes items from our chapter. The goal is for each chapter to bring items to auction that are worth at least \$250 in total.

The OMGA is putting together a history from 2010 to present and are looking for materials from the various chapters. Shari noted that we have an album with historical information in it and Rachel said this is in the basement.

Sandy brought back visors that were left over from the International Conference that we may want to sell or give away.

Banners (Shari): Shari received the banners she ordered. They did not have wind slits, so Staples is sending her replacements. She also determined how to cut the wind slits, so she will do that so we will have two sets of banners. One banner will be installed on the footbridge and the other will be at Jackson Park. The banners cost \$70 over Shari's budget, and the Executive Committee agreed to add \$70 to her budget.

Greenhouse (Sandi): The last major work party is done and there is now weed cloth down and gravel spread in the area outside. The tables are complete, the heat and water are ready, and the seed starting events can now happen. The shade cloths need to be installed. The greenhouse will be finished under budget by about \$5K.

The greenhouse subcommittee proposed naming the greenhouse to honor Dorothy Metcalf, whose foundation provided most of the funding. This has been approved and we will try to get a sign in place before the plant sale. The sign needs to be very durable. One suggestion for a sign-maker is Paul Casal, a heavy metal sculptor in White Salmon. Another is Kelly Phipps. We may want a ceremony on Friday during setup or Saturday before the plant sale. The cost of the sign will be covered by the existing budget.

The greenhouse subcommittee is putting together maintenance instructions, including how to regulate the temperature.

Sandy is writing an article on the greenhouse for OMGA.

New business

Plant Sale (LJ): The plant sale is May 12, the day before Mother's Day, from 9-1. This year it will be held in the field next to the greenhouse. The plant sale is

a mandatory activity for all Master Gardeners, with many activities to choose from both before and during the plant sale. LJ has sign-up sheets.

Laurel and LJ have been discussing what perennials they want to have this year. Rachel noted that OMGA has some big concerns about perennials coming from people's yards because of some of the invasive species that may be present, especially Japanese beetles and a particular nematode. In future plant sales, we need to discuss whether or not we want to continue perennial sales – some chapters have switched to a seed swap. Other ideas might be starting perennials at home or in the greenhouse, using potting soil, and not digging them up and transplanting them. We could also do cuttings in the fall and have training on propagation. We might also be able to get wholesale perennials from a commercial source. As leaders and educators in the community, it will be our responsibility to educate the public on the concerns and put together best practices.

For this year, especially because it is another transition year, they will be limiting the number of gatherings for digging perennials to just a few gardens and to a lower number of varieties. They dug some perennials at Sue Stender's in the fall, and these will also be sold. When they do gather them, they need to ensure they get as much of the dirt off the roots as possible before repotting them. The proceeds from the plant sale might not be as high this year as a result of the changes.

We have never accepted anything except checks and cash in the past, and this might have limited our sales somewhat. Nancy proposed we purchase a square to have available. The cost is \$10 without a chip reader or \$45 with a chip reader, and then a fee of less than 3%, with direct deposit into our checking account. Nancy can add the square to her phone. This was approved.

Nancy also submitted the form for the nursery license.

Seed to Supper (Shari): Renee needs \$125 to pay for the new Seed to Supper books. There is a new curriculum and the books are being reprinted. They are holding a training session on the new material Thursday. It was approved to increase the budget by \$125 for the books.

Learning Garden (Laurel): The first learning garden work party of the season was held, and it included a pruning workshop. They are targeting work parties every 2 weeks, on Thursday mornings.

County Fair (Heidi): The fair committee met, and their next meeting will be in the 3rd week of April. There was good feedback on holding 5 minute pop-up classes in conjunction with the display. We might want to advertise these for this year to get more people into the exhibit. Rachel wants to combine that with

plant clinics. For the pop-up classes, she suggests 3-5 talking points and passing out a publication.

FISH (Rachel): Rachel does not have an update on the hiring process to replace Susan R. as a garden manager at FIS/Spirit of Grace. There is a Jesuit Volunteer, Sydney Axtell, who will be taking on a FISH food bank coordinator position next year. Rachel will coach her on the garden aspect.

Community Garden Network (Rachel): Workshops are being planned for this year, and they plan to have two.

Parkdale Memorial Garden (Nancy): This group is preparing to have their first work party. The Parkdale Garden Club will be holding a composting class on April 3, taught by Pam Crider and Patricia Page. They are building a compost system which the garden club is funding. There are some new Master Gardeners interested in becoming involved in the garden.

Garden Tour 2019 (Heidi): One of the stops on next year's garden tour could be the greenhouse. This would be a good way to inform the public about the greenhouse and what we are doing with it. We do need to keep the restrictions in mind – there is a limit on the number of non-CGMGA people in the greenhouse at one time.

Education Committee (Rachel): The members of the education committee are Sue Luther, Kelly Brown, Margot Dameier, and Christie Bradley. They are getting together to discuss the venue and schedule

Master Gardener of the Year (Rachel): Rachel needs to have nominations by May 10.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley