

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 2018, OSU Extension Service Office

Attendees: Bitter, Linda; Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; DeTar, Laurel; McGregor, Kathy; Montag, Sandy; Nastasi, Heidi; Sanchez, Susan; Schlagle, Nancy; Whiting, Sylvianne

Secretary's Report (Christie): The minutes for the April meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Nancy): Since Nancy has been out, her transaction report includes two months of data. She had a couple of budget questions we resolved, as follows:

- There was an entry in the minutes about the additional funds added for the banners that had been approved by the executive committee. Nancy asked where these charges should be applied – she applied them 50/50 to the Plant Sale and Garden Tour. Since the banners will be available multiple years, it was determined that the cost be added to the capital expenses.
- Nancy wanted verification that the budget for Seed to Supper was doubled from \$125 to \$250, and this was valid.
- The next question was in regard to the bee project. It was originally its own project, but was then incorporated under the learning garden. We probably want to set up a separate category in the learning garden for the bee budget items.

Laurel noted that Steve has a tap for Farmers Irrigation and he is putting in an irrigation drop near the greenhouse. Cost for that should be listed as an asset under capital expenditures.

Gravel for the greenhouse should be billed through Nancy directly. It went under the greenhouse project budget and should stay there rather than capital because the gravel will go away after time.

Intel changed the service they use for tracking volunteer hours, and the transition has been difficult for Nancy. She finally jumped through all the required hoops and this account has been added to the vendor's site (so Christie can track volunteer hours against it).

Extension Report (Rachel): Plant clinics are now set at regular intervals. Clinics were added at Hood River Supply/Ace Hardware every other Saturday.

There will be a plant clinic during the plant sale and the bathrooms in the extension office will be accessible to the public.

The county is still determining what the budget will be and the impact on extension and the Master Gardener program.

The septic system may need to be rebuilt and the bioswale is over the current one. There is budget to replace the septic system. However we will need to have a lead time to remove plants.

Rachel will be in the Hood River office on Mondays and Thursdays and the Wasco office the other days. She will be available via email during her working hours.

It was noted at the OMGA executive committee that the regional reporting structures for extension are being reassigned. Brian Tuck is retiring, so the regional reporting will be assigned to Dana Martin in Bend, to whom Rachel will report.

OMGA Report (Sandy): G2 is coming up in July and we need to get our auction items gathered. Sandy put an entry in the newsletter but got no responses, so she will find another way to reach out. We should have 10 items that total to at least \$250 or so. She may also approach some local businesses for donations. Bill S. offered to donate a painting.

It was determined that we would just keep the visors and use them for activities like the plant sale.

Old business

Greenhouse (Heidi): We still plan on formally gifting the greenhouse to OSU. There is some kind of formal agreement and it will include our specific provisions. One of the reasons the transition needs to happen is so that OSU can pay the insurance and cover liability. One of our provisions is that we would have first refusal for any requests for access – we do not have to share the greenhouse unless we choose to do so. If MCCAREC closes, we would have an opportunity to move it.

New business

Plant Sale (Laurel): Plant sale preparation is going well. There was an issue with a label file that Laurel and LJ were able to resolve. Most of the plants are doing well, especially the tomatoes.

People are still dropping off plants without pre-authorization, often without labels. Many have issues, like being root bound. Laurel and LJ are setting up a free table at the plant sale to deal with these.

There will be a work party Thursday evening to check prices and labels and organize. This will continue on Friday afternoon, and Christie will be bringing the printer and label blanks for that. People working can pick the plants they want to purchase. Nancy will be there Friday to accept payments. Everyone working on the sale on Saturday should be there between 7:30 and 8, and there will be no plant pre-sales to Master Gardeners on Saturday.

Pricing pads and aprons should be in the basement. Nancy is bringing a square to accept payments, but this will not be advertised. Rachel will find a place to lock up the cash after the sale.

The greenhouse will be open during the plant sale. No smoking signs will be posted. Everything is mowed. Sylvianne volunteered to be in the learning garden during the sale for people who may have questions.

There will also be a table set up for information about next year's plant tour. Heidi will bring the materials.

Eric has been talking to Steve about parking. They will direct cars past the Klahre House garden and then they can park on the right, with overflow in the field to the left. Handicapped parking will be provided near the greenhouse. People who have purchases to pick up will be directed to the west side of the greenhouse – others can exit that way or the way they came in. Master Gardeners working at the sale can park in the extension and experiment station lots.

Learning Garden (Sylvianne): The first work party was held for the year and there were only about 5 people. Another will be set up for June.

Laurel and Sylvianne picked up irrigation parts and they have someone coming in and digging trenches. They may need help with adding connectors. They can use the hose bib at the Nicholson's water station while they are waiting for the new irrigation to get done. Volunteers will be recruited to water.

For educational outreach, the workshops need to be advertised better. One new workshop might be a tool maintenance session, and they are looking for an instructor, which could be a Master Gardener who is competent and confident about this. One suggestion was to pay the blacksmith, Joe Vashon, but he would not be able to do Saturdays. Scott Fitch might be willing. An additional idea for workshops is pruning in the spring.

A question was asked about the criteria for an instructor. They need to be an expert in the field, especially if the training has any edible materials. Master Gardeners are not allowed to teach sessions on edible mushrooms, and medicinal herbs are an area where we need to be very careful. We cannot do potlucks if the community is participating, but tastings are allowed under

specific conditions that take things like spoilage and safety under consideration.

There was a recommendation to update the flyers and have a listing on all of the demonstration gardens. Various gardens may also want to set a date when there will be people available there for tours and write a blurb about that in the pamphlets.

The OMGA Leadership Conference is going to discuss promotion of demonstration gardens and recruiting manpower for projects. Heidi is going to put together some historic hours from our various projects so she can take that there. All the project leaders can help her put that together.

County Fair (Heidi): This project is moving along well.

FISH / Spirit of Grace (Rachel): They are recruiting volunteers for this project and many Master Gardeners have been involved.

Newsletter (Shari): Shari will be working on the newsletter as she can, because she will be traveling.

Garden Visits (Kathy): The next garden visit is June 2 at Bill Sturman's. The official time is 5, but people wanting to explore the woods around his house are encouraged to come at 2:30. The garden visit at Pat Morrison's went well, with about 20 people attending.

Community Gardens (Kathy): Kathy is still cleaning up and dividing the OCH materials. The shed is going to the dry farm garden on Tucker Road. There is still yarrow and herbs to dig up. Kathy is coordinating with three different community garden leaders. She wants to have a workshop on budgeting and grant writing and one meeting for people new to community gardening. In the fall they are planning a pot luck and a harvest garden visit.

Library Water Wise Garden (Sue S): There will be two presentations at the library. Straw bale gardening will be May 18 and water wise gardening is on July 27. The library will provide coffee.

There is an issue with the irrigation. Two lines were cut and need to be repaired. Some of the emitters are also clogged. Sandi R and Cindy are experts in drip irrigation and may be able to help. Laurel will also take Bob to look it over.

Next Door/Klahre House (Rachel for Dennis): There are irrigation issues with the Klahre House garden. The Klahre House kids are now helping with the beekeeping and Raices is focusing on creating a children's garden.

Parkdale Memorial Garden (Nancy): Bill S is on vacation so there have not been any work parties. Nancy notes that Bill is doing a good job recruiting people for them. They had a compost workshop in the garden last month, led by Trish Paige. They are working on a 3-bin system for the compost. They are probably not going to hold the ice cream social this year.

Garden Tour (Heidi): The garden tour committee is looking for candidate gardens. They want to put together a list and then narrow it down to the best choices. The gardens should be in Oregon, in either the upper or lower valley.

Seed to Supper (Rachel): The classes are wrapping up, with graduation tomorrow. They had 8-12 people. They are putting together gift certificates for the students to use at the plant sale.

Brassicas and Beer (Rachel): Margot did the public service announcements and sent them to the radio station. Rachel finalized the poster. They will have to use the extension laptop and projector because the other ones are being used for Seed to Supper.

Weed Walk (Rachel): The weed walk scheduled for May 19 was cancelled.

Yamhill County Visit (Eric): There may be a visit to Yamhill County in June to look at their propagation techniques they use for their plant sales. We will probably not be able to transfer soil from gardens next year, so we will have to look at other methods of putting together perennials for our sale. Seeds and cuttings should not be an issue.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley