

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 11, 2018, OSU Extension Service Office

Attendees: Bitter, Linda; Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Citlau, Renee; DeTar, Laurel; Flick, Cathy; Johnson, LJ; Montag, Sandy; Nastasi, Heidi; Sanchez, Susan; Stevens, John; Sturman, Bill; Suits, Rachel; Whiting, Sylvianne; Winfield, Bill

Secretary's Report (Christie): The minutes for the July meeting were not distributed because the secretary was absent.

Treasurer's Report (Nancy): There has been very little activity since John's report in July. A statement was received from the Gorge Community Foundation showing a fund balance at Feb. 28 of \$66,147.33 of which there is \$63,247.33 in unexpendable and \$2,900 can be expended. The Treasurer was directed to request expendable funds from both endowments as reflected in the current year budget.

2 checks from May are outstanding and the Treasurer will contact the individuals holding those checks to make sure they get cashed.

There was some discussion regarding the procedure for paying the weeder of the Learning Garden.

Extension Report (Rachel):

Rachel is considering an evaluation process for projects much like the one Central Oregon uses. It evaluates aspects like how projects fit in the mission of education and promote sustainable practices.

In past years, we had about 100 volunteers, and about 85 of them active. This year we had 85 members and only about the same percentage of active members. So it has been harder to get enough volunteers and we do not have enough volunteers for the projects we have. A question was raised about the plant sale, which requires a lot of volunteers. It was discussed that a lot of energy goes into it, and that it is sometimes overstaffed, but that is a project we need and want to continue. It is an important project for education of members as well as an opportunity to educate the public. The funds raised also are directly applied to other projects and provides volunteer hours in the winter.

The project evaluations could be used to determine which projects we keep. One suggestion was to evaluate two projects per month, but it may take too long to get through all of them. The members expressed concern that the

projects needed to be evaluated in a timely manner and decisions made on which projects could be spun off or discontinued.

So a second suggestion was to do an initial evaluation of all of the projects and then look at them in more depth, as needed. We would probably need a committee to go through this. Rachel will prepare an evaluation form before the September meeting.

Plant clinics have been overwhelmed by the number of reports. We had one disgruntled client. There is a lot going on in plant clinics and a lot of questions are not from Hood River County. Sometimes it can take a long time to get to samples and they may get damaged. Hood River County budget cuts have also hurt. Skamania and Klickitat Counties also bring in a number of issues, and they do not have an Extension office.

Rachel has had a hard time recruiting people for the Saturday Market, and she is considering eliminating those markets next year. They always have a lot of non-residents anyway. She is considering adding a Monday plant clinic where the public is not involved to do research. She is also considering adding plant clinics at the White Salmon Ace Hardware. Wasco County is also willing to help us with plant clinic research. The committee as a whole was very supportive of this change. Rachel underscored that this was a top down decision and hers to make.

Another idea is to train a core of knowledgeable volunteers who would be on call during the week to help with plant clinics as mentors.

Rachel is also considering changes to training the spread classes a bit more throughout the year. This might consist of something like 6 weeks of classes in the winter that are horticulture themed. As new Master Gardener-trainees, completion of these would be a prerequisite to becoming a master Gardener. They would also expose people to what Extension does and connect the trainees to Master Gardener volunteers. The summer would consist of project work and ongoing periodic classes. In the fall, there would be classes and additional training. Only after completing this plant clinic training would people be eligible to work on plant clinics. The winter classes would be open to the public and to people in the Home Horticulture program. Mentoring would be a year-long endeavor.

Some of the goals would be to have less intensive training in the winter (it would be spread out more throughout the year), more hands-on experience, and a format more accessible for varying cultures and age groups.

OMGA Report (Sandy): Sandy met with a group who evaluated the scholarship applications for Mini College G2. They gave them to everyone who applied. They

want to re-evaluate when scholarship applications are evaluated in future years.

OMGA is also considering changes to the Mini College, as they see the current model as unsustainable, and they want feedback on their ideas. Some of the options being considered are:

- Keep it the way it is
- Hire an event planner
- Hold them around the state at multiple places, with each region having one every 5 years or so

If there were meetings in different regions, OMGA would support the region in aspects like the preparation and ensuring the quality of the content. Different sites may increase participation in areas that have to travel to the current locations.

Old Business

Quarterly Meeting (Heidi): At the quarterly meeting, funding was approved to help fund the Extension office to address the budget shortfall.

County Fair (Heidi): This is a small committee and they only met a few times and they spent 50-70 hours on it. The pop-up classes went well. They were in the floral building again, which was really hot and they did not have very many visitors. They are considering whether to do it again, whether to move out of the floral building, or whether to reduce it to a single day, like OSU Extension does.

Garden Tour 2019 (Renee): The garden tour committee has been meeting, visiting and selecting gardens, and notified the garden owners they have chosen. There will be seven stoops in Hood River and Parkdale.

New Business

Greenhouse (Eric): Eric has been working on the punch list. For next year's plant sale, there will almost certainly not be plant transplants from people's gardens. Instead we will have propagation and cuttings.

Heidi followed up with Steve to understand the rights to the greenhouse and gifting it to OSU.

Budget Committee (Heidi): The budget committee needs to get together and request budgets for 2019. Eric will be glad to participate.

Officer Nominations (Heidi): They have put together the nominating committee for 2019 officers.

Graduation Planning (Renee): Renee is forming the committee to plant the graduation. The date of graduation is tentatively set for November 1.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley