

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

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

Attendees: Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Citlau, Renee; Johnson, LJ; Kilkenny, Barbara; Montag, Sandy; Nastasi, Heidi; Rousseau, Sandi; Slagle, Nancy; Stevens, John; Sturman, Bill; Suits, Rachel; Winfield, Bill

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

Treasurer's Report (Nancy): There have only been a few transactions this month. Nancy called the OSU Foundation to get an update on the draw-down, and they are still working on it. She discussed the issues of receipts and authorized signers with them. She told them we want the money this year and they said that would not be a problem.

Nancy also left a message with the Gorge Foundation about draw-downs from them. It was noted that generally the funds with the Gorge Foundation have done better, but since the reporting for the two foundations are at different times of the year, it is difficult to compare.

An audit report was done using randomly selected transactions, and everything was found to be in order.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Extension Report (Rachel): Several Master Gardeners attended the 2nd county budget meeting. It was a successful meeting, with most votes going toward increasing the income through some other method than reducing funding of services. There was a lot of well-produced information, but nothing specifically presented on the Master Gardening program. Eric also noted that there was nothing about CGMGA on the county web site.

Sign-ups have started for the Master Gardener program next year. There has not been a lot of feedback about the new structure of the program. The deadline for starting is less firm now because the classes will be open. But anyone wanting to be certified needs to attend all six classes. Returning Master Gardeners should sign up by December. Rachel will be continuing her outreach for new and continuing members, and is open to ideas about how to do it. It was suggested that she post something on Facebook. She will, and she will include the winter and full-year schedules. John would like to see more about the presenters on the schedules, like a short bio. Other ideas for outreach are

the radio, which is better than the newspaper, and someone could talk to the garden clubs. Rachel is considering putting together a flyer about the program and classes as well.

Hopefully with the new schedule, more former Master Gardeners will return. Rachel will be providing a list of those who could be contacted, and Shari is willing to do so.

One previous member asked Rachel about how costs will work for associate members will work. Previously associate members paid \$17, but now they would need to pay \$10/class or \$50 for the whole series. Everyone would need to pay that except lifetime members, for whom the classes are free. The concept of the classes is not to generate revenue, but instead to have those who attend classes assist with funding them.

It was noted that we have always given scholarships, utilized at Rachel's discretion, for people wanting to join and take classes. This comes out of her budget. The Executive Committee noted that they are willing to add budget to the scholarship funds if need be.

Rachel is working on community outreach to increase the diversity of our program. She is working with the Latino community, especially through Raices.

In December Rachel will be spending some time on the OSU campus for an annual conference and also traveling for a couple of weeks. She will make sure she has the information for the January newsletter to Shari in time for the deadline.

For retention of membership, the group Rachel has worked with in North Carolina had a lot better retention rate if people were more involved in the first six weeks or so. Mentees/mentors will not be paired until March so they can have a better chance to get to know each other and possibly make better choices. Once they are paired, the relationship will last the rest of the year which may also help retain interest and focus.

Rachel discussed plant clinics with Pat at Hood River Supply. They want to have more there, so she is scheduling them every Saturday except the first Saturday of the month. Pat still wants us to have a spot in front, but has not determined where yet. He also wants to hire a Master Gardener to work in the garden department. Rachel suggested he might want to send an existing employee to classes.

We will be having some plant clinics at the Ace Hardware in White Salmon.

Rachel told Hannah we were stepping away from the farmer's market.

OMGA Report (Sandy): The 4th quarterly meeting was held in Portland. There will be a retreat on December 10 and 11 to discuss policy and future plans.

Heidi needs to submit the list of new officers to OMGA.

There are new plans for Mini College. It will be held October 18 and 19th in Bend at The Riverhouse. One day will be all workshops and the other will have a garden tour in addition to workshops.

Gail L will be sending out plant sale guidelines. She will be strongly recommending that plant sales only include clean plants that were not dug up and divided. Groups need to cross-check their plants with the noxious plant list. A nursery license will be needed. Plants need to be inspected before the sale.

All plants will need identification tags. Groups can apply for a grant to help get equipment for creating tags. Laurel, LJ, and Christie need to get together and re-design the tags with the new OMGA labels. This needs to be done fairly soon because there is a long lead time on label blanks.

There is also a new non-violence clause in the Code of Conduct that everyone will need to sign.

They also discussed garden ecology updates and Gail is doing a presentation on pollinators and urban soil.

We need a link on our website to OMGA.

Barbara Kilkenny will be our new OMGA representative.

Graduation (Renee): 33 members attended graduation. 13 new people out of 16 graduated, so we had a higher graduation rate than some years. The graduation committee is putting together a proposal to add engraved stones for the greenhouse with names of the core group of people who people who participated. The cost of the stones might come out of the greenhouse budget as a one-time expense.

New Business

Education Updates (Rachel): Rachel will be putting together the education team to discuss next year's Brassicas and Beer.

Learning Garden (Sandi for Sylvianne): The learning garden project leaders met with Rita Saling to discuss a possible 10 year anniversary celebration for the Japanese Heritage Garden. They had the Taiko drummers for the dedication but they were very expensive (they charged \$3K but gave us a discount, so we paid \$1K). If we decided to do the drummers again, we might need a budget line item for that.

We need a good marketing and outreach program to get a good crowd. Rita is willing to speak and Sada may be as well. They can approach the garden clubs about Japanese floral arrangements, Sylvianne has been talking to Maya Yasui. It was suggested that they join a Japanese garden association to get on their register. They may want to do it on the anniversary week of when the local Japanese population was sent to internment camps (May 17). This is a week after the plant sale. It would be held on a Friday afternoon. They want this to be a community event and once the date is firm, they will send out a *save the date* notification.

Plant Sale (LJ): Laurel and LJ have started meeting once a week to plan for the plant sale. They will get the order list done this month. They are purchasing some plugs and may do some propagation from cuttings. They can hold a class on propagation techniques. They are also going to have some annual flowers as well as vegetables from seed.

They are brain-storming how to get more people involved this year. They can have some people grow flats of plants. Rachel noted that new Master Gardeners will have to put some time in on all of the projects.

LJ would like to have sales people with specializations like Jeff had for tomatoes. These people could do some research and work with customers.

Their goal for revenue is \$8K.

It was asked if associate members can work at the plant sale and Eric noted that this is fine. People have not had to be certified if they are associate members. Associate members who are paying dues can participate in all activities except plant clinics and giving advice.

Greenhouse Update (Sandi): The greenhouse project decided not to build a shade structure next to the greenhouse, and they were able to get more land from Steve. It will be east of the greenhouse in the gravel area. This can be used for propagation, perennials, and annuals. They may even be able to sell out of it during the plant sale.

Three Rivers Grill Event (Shari): Shari noted that in the past, the Three Rivers Grill event was limited to when the classes started and the mentee/mentor matchups were complete. This year, since the pairing will not be done until later, we can hold this at a different time. Rachel suggested having it around March 6, and both new Master Gardeners and returning ones could be invited.

Holiday Wreath Event (Shari): This event will be held on December 8 from 10-12. Shari will take the greens to the greenhouse in advance. She does not plan to put up fliers because it is harder to gauge the interest. She also remains

cognizant of the number of non-Master Gardeners allowed in the greenhouse. Tags will be added to the wreaths indicating they were made by CGMGA. It was suggested that they add a sign at the foodbank about the wreaths because there was some confusion about the wreaths there.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley