

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2019, OSU Extension Service Office

Attendees: Axtell, Sydney; Bitter, Linda; Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Johnson, LJ; Montag, Sandy; Sanchez, Sue; Slagle, Nancy; Stevens, John; Sturman, Bill; Suits, Rachel; Winfield, Bill

Secretary's Report (Christie): As Christie was gone in March, Linda took minutes and sent them out for review. The February minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Nancy): Nancy sent the treasurer's report. She had to do a recertification for Benevity (for Intel volunteer hour fund matching). Nancy received the nursery license for the plant sale. The dues for OMGA are also due sometime in April. The treasurer's report was approved.

OSU/Extension Report (Rachel): Everyone at Extension appreciates the letters to the editor that people have written supporting the tax measures. People have been noticing them and talking to Rachel about the issue. Rachel has been working with OSU to get marketing materials. Loren has been working on the PAC in her spare time and Ann Harris is staying engaged. They have been raising funds for the mailers and yard signs. The slogan is "Safe and Healthy HRC". Ballots go out May 1. The OSU Extension office is sending out a mailer describing some of the things OSU Extension provides to the community and the relevance to people in Hood River County.

The advisory board met with higher level people in OSU Extension, and there was a good turnout of leaders in extension management, stakeholders, and a county commissioner. The first budget meeting is April 18. Nancy will not be able to attend, but it might be a good idea for some Master Gardeners to be there.

The county is going forward with their budgeting process and more decisions will be made in the next 2 months. The county supports what extension provides, but they do not have the funds to support it. If the May tax measures are approved, they will not kick in until 2020.

Rachel is doing a Brassicas and Beer talk "What Extension Can Do for You" at Volcanic tomorrow.

A Master Gardener field trip is scheduled and the new members will be getting totes and handbook. There are 11 new members signed up.

There is a Master Gardener retreat with all of the Master Gardener leaders and coordinators from around the state on May 6-8. They will be discussing the challenges, including attracting new people, diversity, equity, inclusion, and having enough resources. One item of discussion is the cultural relevance of the programs and how they are serving their communities. They also will be discussing changes to class formats and how they are being received.

Rachel will be busy in May, so it will be best to contact her via email.

Plant clinics are up and running and there are a lot of questions coming in. There was some confusion at the first Ace Hardware plant clinic in White Salmon. The two people going to the plant clinic reported that Ace was not ready for them and did not have a table or space, so they moved to the Hood River Ace. Rachel does not have a point person at Ace in White Salmon yet, so she and Renee need to follow up with them. Linda suggested that they talk to Greg.

Nancy noticed great write-ups about the plant sale and garden tour in the Hood River News. Margo has been doing extensive and effective marketing.

Seven people have signed up to be mentors, so we need a few more. Rachel is sending out the mentor information.

May 15 is the deadline for the Master Gardener of the Year and Behind the Scenes recipients to be determined. Rachel will put something in the mid-month newsletter. There is a list of past recipients for the committee to review.

Old Business

Policies (Sandy): Sandy discussed changes to the policy of the Executive Committee to add one past president to the list of voting members/members at large. This would not necessarily have to be the last president, but we do not want to lose the history from the previous presidents. All the positions are one year terms, but all can be extended to additional years. This was approved and the proposal taken to the general membership for approval. Sandy will write up something. CJ (Cathy) Flick has resigned her post and there was a motion to have Sydney take over that position. This was approved.

Greenhouse (Sandy): The commemorative stones are back from the engraver. They still need to decide how to set them. There will be a plaque honoring Dorothy Metcalf, as well.

Project Review (Renee): The project leaders need to get together and discuss their goals.

New Business

Plant Sale (LJ): The second shelf is working well and the plug plants can now start to be moved outdoors. It has been challenging to get help this year, but everything is going well. LJ has been getting fliers together to send to the plant clinics.

Garden Tour (Renee): The next garden tour meeting is April 22 at Renee's. CJ Flick will be doing the educational component. She has a different habitat topic for each garden and will be talking about elements at that garden. She is making up a poster for each and will provide handouts. Margo is working on promotions, and the first tickets have already been sold on the Eventbrite site.

Seed to Supper (Renee): Seed to Supper is starting, and Margo has already been promoting the program. It is starting a bit later than previous years, on April 23. The classes, every Tuesday from 6-8 at the FISH classroom, are free and students get a handbook and, most years, a certificate to use at the plant sale. The target audience is low income, but the class is not restricted to low income attendees. The last class is May 28.

FISH Garden (Nancy for Sydney): They had the first work party at the FISH garden and there was a good turnout of Master Gardeners and the public. There was a request for volunteers in the paper and this seemed to have worked. There are two more work parties coming up.

One of the things Sydney has done is to do interviews and find out what kinds of vegetables people are most interested in receiving and then publish a report on the results.

OMGA (Eric for Sandy): There is an upcoming quarterly meeting.

Banners (Shari): There is one banner for the plant sale and one for the garden tour. Shari asked Ace if we can put a banner up there and is waiting for a response. She has reserved space at the foot bridge and Jackson Park.

Japanese Heritage Garden Celebration (Eric for Sandi): The program will be similar to the dedication ceremony. They have received commitments from a lot of people, including Mayor Paul Blackburn, Portland Taiko (drummers), and Sada. The Japanese Consulate may send a representative. They are borrowing the tents from White Salmon/Bingen Community Partners and chairs from the Hood River Westside Fire Department.

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

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley