

## CGMGA Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Present: Renee Taylor, Sandy Montag, Nancy Slagle, John Stevens, Eric Bosler, Shari Bosler, Laurel DeTar, Sandi Rousseau, Kathy MacGregor, Bill Sturman, Heidi Nastasi, and Rachel Suits.

- I. The meeting was called to order by the president, Renee Taylor.
- II. **Secretary's Report:** The December, 2018 Minutes were approved as previously corrected.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Slagle presented the monthly financial statement (previously sent via email on January 6). There were not many transactions in December aside from the annual insurance payment.
  - The annual financial report to OMGA (due February 15) has already been submitted. The report includes the financial statements, donations made and received, list of officers, scholarships awarded, copy of bylaws and the insurance policy declaration,.
  - Nancy received notification that the request for payment from the OSU Foundation has been processed and should be received the fourth week in January.

(Note: The amount coming from the OSU Foundation is \$ 5,771.93. As a result, the P&L for 2018 will show a small profit for the year).

  - The Treasurer's report was approved as presented
  - Next month, neither Nancy nor John will attend the Executive Committee meeting. Any expense receipts should be mailed to John.
  - The Fourth Quarter (2018) audit will be performed next week. Renee, Nancy, and Sandy Montag will arrange a mutually suitable date and include one additional member of the Executive Committee.
- IV. **OSU Report:** Rachel reported that intakes for the new Master Gardener class continue to arrive. She has received 14 letters of intent and knows that additional letters have arrived but have not yet been processed.
  - The set up at the MG classes will be different this year because some attendees will be paying for the individual classes each time. Heidi Nastasi and Helga Reese will manage the onsite registration and payment process. In addition, Rachel has received lots of inquiries regarding the six individual classes in the winter program. The newspaper article has been useful, as have the PSA's.
  - Two forest service officers are scheduled as presenters in March. Rachel has been unable to make contact due to the Federal shutdown. If the shutdown continues, Rachel may have to identify another presenter for that session.
  - At the last winter class, March 27, Rachel will hand out an application for people who, at that point, wish to sign up for the MG Course. This application will be due the next week, at the class for new master gardeners and their mentors on April 3.
  - The final class in the fall will be on Pesticides (October 9). This is a required class. Final test will be passed out. Students will have two weeks to complete

the exam. At the last session, October 23, the test will be reviewed and handed in.

- All returning Master Gardeners will be required to attend a training session on SLING, the new calendar and sign-up program that will be used this year – replacing ShiftBoard. The two sessions are scheduled for Monday, February 25 at 5:30 pm and Tuesday, February 26, at noon.
- February and March will be challenging months for Rachel. Email will be the best way to reach her.
- County Update: Hood River County has decided to propose a food and beverage tax of 5% on the May ballot AND a five-year operating levy – also on the May ballot. If one of these measures passes, then the Extension service will likely be funded at the baseline level. If both measures pass, the Extension Service may receive more. The Extension budget now is \$ 154K. Baseline is \$163K. (Thus the \$8K shortfall partially made up this year by the OMGA and CGMGA). IF the Extension service is not budgeted by the County, it will likely shut down. This will include Master Gardeners, 4H, SNAP education, Master Preservers, Seed to Supper, etc.
- The Extension office is now having staff meetings to develop presentations in the community and recruiting volunteers from the community to be ‘Friends of Extension’ to help with outreach (letters to the editor, etc.), and later to help make presentations around the county. Please contact Sandy Montag if you are able to help in this area.

Note: If appears that if one or both of the proposals are approved, the funding during the lag time between approval and implementation would be funded from the three year reserve drawdown previously approved by the county.

- The Extension office meeting room will henceforward require a \$25 flat fee for outside groups wishing to use it. This does not apply to any MG subgroups.
- Rachel will not attend the February meeting. She will provide her updates.

- V. **OMGA Report:** Eric Bosler presented updates. There will be no Mini-College this year. No leadership was forthcoming, so the decision was made to cancel for 2019.
- The first quarterly meeting topic will be “Inclusivity and Diversity”.
  - OMGA is working on issues with the distribution of the *Gardener’s Pen*. Following discussion, Rachel agreed to send the *Gardener’s Pen* out separately.

VI. **Other Old Business:**

- A. **Japanese Heritage Celebration:** Renee reported that the membership vote to allocate additional funds passed.
- B. **Membership Update and Feedback:** Shari reported that the total number of recertifying, associate, and lifetime gardeners this year is approximately 75. Shari sent a questionnaire to MG’s who trained last year and who had decided not to continue. She sent out 20 to 25 and received 7 returned. Upon discussion, it was agreed that the sample was too small from which to draw conclusions, and that a survey should include all the MG participants, not just those who decided to leave. Renee suggested a small group to develop questions for an end of the year survey that will be distributed to everyone toward the end of the classes.

VII. **New Business;**

- A. **Project Review Process:** Renee will send a questionnaire to all project leaders asking them to provide the goals of the project, time required, community impact,

and more. The executive committee will review two projects per month at executive meetings beginning at the February meeting.

**B. Project Updates**

i. **Japanese Heritage Celebration:** Sandi Rousseau reported that the Taiko drummers have been confirmed. The Taiko will be performing at a second venue (high school or middle school) made possible by a \$500 donation from the Tsuruta Sister City organization. Save the Date cards have been printed and sent to former donors, city leaders and others. Maija Yasui has received permission to use excerpts from letters written by interned children to their former teachers. There will be three speakers; Rita Saling, Paul Blackburn (Mayor) and Sadafumi Uchiyama (designer and current Garden Curator, Portland Japanese Garden). The planning committee has a meeting planned for March 4. They are looking for a hospitality chair.

ii. **Garden Tour:** Heidi Nastasi reported that the committee has selected **Central Gorge Garden Tour** as the name for the 2019 tour. The tour is scheduled for June 22, from 9 am until 4 pm. Tickets are priced at \$15 per person, and \$12.50 per person for groups of 8 or more. The committee is seeking sponsors – program ads, discount coupons, etc. Educational aspects will be emphasized.

3. **Plant Sale:** LJ Johnson is having health issues and Laurel will discuss the co-lead position with her. Annual plugs have been ordered. Laurel is about to order the 3 ½ inch pots. The seeds will be ordered by the first of February. Some items have gone missing from the greenhouse and/or shed, including seed starter trays. Upon discussion, it was decided to place lockboxes on the shed and greenhouse.

**VIII. Other New Business**

- A. Letters to the Editor: Sandy has taken on the organization of the letter campaign. The plan is to submit a letter twice a month in February and March and beginning in April, a letter every week. Sandi Rousseau had a letter printed this week. A sign-up sheet circulated at the meeting.
- B. Greenhouse Appreciation: Sandy Montag will take a sample stone to an engraver in Goldendale for an estimate for inscribing and will come back to the committee once possible cost is known. Sandi Rousseau pointed out it would be good to have the stones installed prior to the Plant Sale in May.
- C. 2019 Annual Calendar: Kathy MacGregor circulated a draft annual calendar for review. She will update with additions and circulate to the membership. Renee thanked Kathy for putting together this calendar each year.
- D. Newsletter: Shari Bosler reported that she has heard from people who are unaware of events because they do not read the newsletter each month and wondered what can be done. Following discussion, Renee volunteered to print out copies of the newsletter and place two copies on each table during classes in hopes of having people notice the newsletter and remember to read them when they arrive each month. Renee or other Exec Com members will announce important dates and events at the classes.
- E. Hospitality: It was agreed to have coffee and tea for the classes held at the Church, but not for the classes held elsewhere. A volunteer is needed to take charge of this. Email Renee with suggestions.
- F. Renee read a letter received from FISH Food Bank thanking the MGs for the holiday swags and wreathes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Heidi Nastasi  
(Filling in for Christie Bradley)

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 10am – 12 noon.