

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Held via Zoom on Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 8, 2021, Virtual

Attendees: Benson, Norma; Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Dameier, Margo; Gehrig, Anne; Montag, Sandy; Rousseau, Sandi; Slagle, Nancy; Spezia, Barbara; Stevens, John; VanNatta, Anny; Wickersham, Megan; Winfield, Bill

Secretary's Report (Christie): Changes to the October minutes have all been incorporated and minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Sandi for Joanne): The Executive Committee approved the budget last month and is sending it to the members for approval (at the recognition event). There were a few changes since then that the Executive Committee reviewed and approved. There was a change in estimated dues, an increase in the awards budget, and an increase in the expenses for renting the church. Megan noted that this rental fee comes under her budget. We agreed to decrease our budget somewhat to account for that. We also left an option for Megan to come back for additional funds if she needs to.

OSU/Extension (Megan): People are being interviewed for the front office position.

Master Gardener training fliers for 2022 are distributed and the application link is live. The application process does not close until early January. We discussed the potential ceiling - maybe 20, or more if there are plenty of people interested in participating in the service portions.

Eric and Shari want to ensure people have the right expectations about what they will be doing, including educating, learning, and supporting the existing programs. New members need 40 class hours and 40 volunteer hours. We had a lengthy discussion about how we can communicate that there is a commitment to the community and service hours to support this.

Megan has been looking into how mentor training is being done around the country. She wants to have an orientation so anyone considering being a mentor can evaluate the ways they can participate in a mentor role.

Eric noted that new members should be told that some of the fees go toward insurance.

Recognition (Anne): The recognition set up for tonight's recognition event is nearly complete. Megan sent out a reminder and included the Zoom link for people who cannot come in person. There will not be any food or beverages provided.

Awards Committee (Sandi): There is an excellent list of new awards from the awards committee and Sandi got gift cards for the award winners.

Garden Project Updates

Parkdale Memorial Garden (Nancy): The final work party of the year was held and there was an article in the Columbia Gorge News about the Blue Star dedication.

Library Garden (Norma): The library garden is having their final work party.

Learning Garden (Sandi for Joanne): A get together was held to discuss having people take on smaller areas of the garden, rather than having project leaders have a huge area to cover. They had some new people interested. The area owners would be in charge of maintenance and could come up with ideas like presentations and learning opportunities for their areas.

Officers (Sandi): Leanne Hogie agreed to be president-elect to follow Anne. Jean wants to step down as a member at large and Barbara is willing to step into that. The officers will be elected at the Recognition Event and members at large will be finalized in January 2022. The incoming president gets to choose which past president will be on the board. Sandy suggested that we also try to get a new person on the board, once their training is complete. It was pointed out that anyone can attend the meetings, but they cannot vote in the Executive Committee meetings unless they are an officially-recognized Executive Committee member.

Plant Sale Planning Meeting (Sandi): The plant sale planning meeting, which will discuss the kind of activities we want to support, will be this Friday at 1pm. The meeting is open to everyone and Megan will send a reminder.

Policies (Sandi): We approved new award categories and we need to get the new awards published in our policies. In addition there was no information about the Behind the Scenes in the policies. She sent out a proposed revision to the policies for review. These changes were approved.

Honorary Master Gardener Status (Sandi): Sandi noted that at least one of the other Master Gardener chapters has honored a retiring hort agent as an Honorary Master Gardener, and she suggested we may want to award Steve Castagnoli with this before he retires at the end of the year. He has been very involved with Master Gardening over the years. The honorary role is an association award rather than an OSU role. He would get a badge. Megan will order the badge.

OMGA (Anny): At the OMGA quarterly meeting, Gail reported that she is trying to arrange dates for Mini College for either late June or late July. At this time, it is planned as an in-person at OSU or hybrid event.

The Gardener's Pen Newsletter distribution differs county to county. OMGA wants to know how each association does it. Shari says she puts the link into the newsletter. Margo asked about how we submit articles for the Gardener's Pen and if there were guidelines about this. Anny said that primarily they are looking for informational articles. There is a new editor. Margo will send her an email and get more detail.

OMGA approved that the OMGA dues will be \$5 for 2022.

The annual retreat for OMGA is on December 3 and it is open to all members. There will be a reminder sent out.

Next year there will be a required class on diversity. Oregon Master Gardeners starts every meeting with a discussion on diversity by discussing the indigenous people who were in the region where they are located.

OMGA is also looking for more people to join their diversity and inclusion task force. CGMGA has their own Diversity and Inclusion task force (JEDI). Megan is joining the OMGA task force and she would like people from our local chapter to join.

It was asked if we should include something in our meetings about the native people indigenous to the various areas in which CGMGA members live.

Megan provided links in the chat to information about this:

<https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

<https://native-land.ca/>

Barbara will also talk to Leanne about her interest in this and her ideas.

Sandi asked if we were supposed to be adding gender pronouns to people's bios as part of helping in the inclusion and diversity. OSU has not mandated this, but they recommend this and that we recognize and respect the intention.

Holiday Greenery (Shari): Saturday December 4 will be the date for the holiday greenery event. Shari is looking for volunteers to come help and they can let Shari know when they are interested in coming so she ensure there are openings in the preferred time slot. The donated wreaths are very appreciated.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley