

**Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting – November 8, 2021**

**Zoom Meeting
8:00 am – 10:00 am**

Attending: Marge Alig, Deborah Hobbs, Deb Kern, Paula Lupcho, Alan Taylor, Jana Tindall, Nancy Tovar, Lynn Trimpe, Rich Taylor, Alan Taylor, Diana Allen, Bob Smythe, Elizabeth Records
Guest: Cheryl Stratton, Wendi Gale

The meeting was called to order by President Deb Kern at 8:02 am.

Gardening Moment:

- Paula said it was a glorious morning and she could see the Sisters' through the low morning fog.
- Jana's begonias are probably dead from the cold!
- Elizabeth still has standing sunflowers in her garden and has chickadees and goldfinches feeding on the seeds.
- Lynn found two broccoli heads in her garden!

Minutes: The minutes for the October Board meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Lynn Trimpe and Marge Alig

- Monthly Report
 - Checkbook balance: \$72,973.51
 - Total CD balance: \$112,692.84
 - The total assets of the association are \$186,107.86
- Maturing CD vote (Greenhouse Cap Fund CD)
 - Should we roll over CD for another 6 or 12 months?
 - 10/31 balance: \$40,254.79 at a rate of 0.65%
 - Discussion roll over for 12 months
 - ➔ **It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to roll the CD over for another 12 months.**

President's Report

Deb Kern

- Committee year-end reports are due Nov. 30. Deb has only received one report so far.
- Marge is following up with Committee Chairs on budgets.
- The December meeting is currently set for Dec. 13th from 10:00-2:00. The group consensus was to meet in person if a large enough meeting room can be located. Instead of a potluck participants will bring their own lunch.

Vice-President

Alan Taylor

- November program
 - The November meeting will focus on graduates meeting the initial certification as Master Gardeners and award winners. Rich is putting together a slide show.
 - Discussion on possible gifts for award winners and new graduates. Deb Kern recommended smaller gifts such as a \$10 gift certificate to a nursery.

- Elizabeth reported that new graduates will receive a certificate, a pop-up floral card and either gloves or a hand lens.
- Paula recommended just focusing awards on graduates, not continuing master gardeners.

Extension Report

Elizabeth Records

- Elizabeth is creating a list of MGs that are cleared to work with youth.
- Applications for 2022 MG training opens in one week. MG training will involve a combination of online classes, discussion boards, and hands-on garden labs. The garden labs will be held on Sundays.

Presentation - Diversity Workgroup

Cheryl Stratton

- Cheryl provided an update on the work of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force (JEDI Task Force). Five of the task force members are from Benton County.
 - Year 1 Accomplishments of the task force include Abra Lee Keynote & Gather Film Screening, Culture of Gardening Story Telling Initiative, Indigenous Cultures Field School Training, Equity requirements for MG training in 2022.

Membership

Deborah Hobbs

- Dues Update
 - Deborah is waiting for final data from Elizabeth. She plans on putting together an hours chart to share at next week's meeting.

OMGA Rep

Rich Taylor

- The OMGA board voted to reduce OMGA dues for 2022 to \$5.00.
- Rich reported that since more people are staying home due to the COVID pandemic, interest in gardening has increased. The public contacts with Plant Clinics and Ask an Expert increased by 80% in the last year.
- OMGA still has two executive board positions open, Vice President and Treasurer. If interested, please contact OMGA President Chris Rusch.

Good of the Association

All

- Paula reported that activity for next year's plant sale has ended for the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 am

The next BCMGA Board Meeting is scheduled for an in-person meeting on Dec. 13th, 2021, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Location TBD