

Benton County Master Gardener Association

Board Meeting – July 6, 2020

Virtual Meeting

9:00 am – 10:00 am

In attendance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Smythe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deborah Hobbs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linda Steppan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Dowrie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy Tovar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Mandel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Kern
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diana Allen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debbie Wray	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Collins	<input type="checkbox"/> Jana Tindall
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brooke Edmunds	<input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marge Alig

President Nancy Tovar called the meeting to order at 9:05 am

Welcome and Gardening Moment All

- Nancy discovered a “new-to-her” wildflower this weekend while hiking at Lewisburg Saddle: the phantom orchid wildflower: The conservation status, previously listed as threatened, has now been upgraded to endangered. The unusual plant obtains its nutrients from a fungus rather than through sunlight and photosynthesis. Found in southwestern B.C., it is at risk from habitat loss and cannot be grown through cultivation.
- Nancy watched a YouTube video on Dahlias – try putting sheep’s wool around them to keep off slugs – Nancy used dog hair and it worked
- Deb Wray – weeds!
- David Mandel – is liking the weather so far! He is using a lot of mulch this summer to keep down the weeds.

Adopt Minutes of previous meeting

- ☐ It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes, as presented, from the June 2020 board meeting.

Officer Reports

Treasurer’s Report

Marge Alig

- Financials
 - Review of June checkbook and expense summary
 - We’ve generated \$22,000 in revenue from the sale of plants. Several small plant sales were held on private property last month. The sales followed strict social distancing guidance and were not official MG events.
 - Review of June Financial Summary – *see attached*

President Elect

Deb Kern

- Zoom Pro or Business for Committee chairs
 - Deb led the discussion on our ongoing need for virtual meeting options for MG committees.
 - Deb reviewed Zoom meetings through TechSoup (provides discounts for nonprofit organizations). The rate starts at \$65/yr. The price varies based on the number of meeting hosts.

- David Mandel uses another open-source video conference option: Jitsi. David reported that Jitsi has better security measures than Zoom.
- David Dowrie and David Mandel offered to research additional options available for virtual meetings.

Vice President

Alan Taylor

- Virtual Garden Tour for July
 - Eleven people sent in photos for the June photo contest. Janet Magedanz and Kathleen Rochester were the winners, and each were awarded a \$25 gift certificate.
 - The theme for July photos is Gardens in Bloom/Garden as Art and the prizes are two \$25 gift certificates
 - Harvest theme for August

OMGA Rep.

Rich Taylor

- Update on Mini College
 - Rich reported that OMGA is exploring ways to hold Mini College remotely, as it is likely restrictions on large gatherings will continue for some time.
 - Sue Nesbitt recently attended the Virginia State Master Gardeners Conference, which was completely done online, and shared notes from her experience. Sue's notes were also provided to the IIG and Gearing Up committees.
 - One of the big attractions of Mini College is the social interaction and networking, which an online conference doesn't easily promote.
 - The idea of having several regional live stream locations has been brought up. People could view the presentations in smaller groups and have group discussions after. Locating the rooms and necessary equipment will be a challenge.
- OSU Alumni Center
 - The Alumni Center is expanding their live stream capabilities, which could facilitate a remote conference. Costs and logistics are being further investigated.
- A survey of Master Gardeners will be done to determine how many would participate in an online conference.

President

Nancy Tovar

- Discuss IIG 2021 options
 - Discuss options for an IIG event in 2021
 - Do we try and reserve LaSalle? Paula mentioned that trying to hold an in-person conference following social distancing guidelines would be a money loser.
- Diversity and inclusion
 - How are we doing on these topics? How do we define these terms?

- Paula – we need to look at Extension programs as a whole, not just Master Gardner programs.
- The ability to access and use technology can be a barrier for some people as we go forward in these times of uncertainty.
- Deborah – Gail’s letter was talking specifically about MG programs and our changing culture. We need to self-examine ourselves so that we as an organization are welcoming to all people – including people of color. We need to support the Community Garden Education team in their efforts. Deborah supports Nancy’s offer to write a letter from BCMGA supporting diversity in our programs.
- Brooke will resend out Gail’s three previous posts for our review. She also mentioned that other MG chapters around the state have developed statements in support of diversity and inclusion. It might be beneficial to contact Multnomah County to see what process they used to develop their statement.
- Outreach – how are we going to recruit if we aren’t in the public eye?
- Officer recruitment for 2021
 - Nomination committee to meet in August
 - Check with current board members to see if there’s interest in serving another term - or if they’re interested in a different position.

Extension Report

Brooke Edmunds and Elizabeth Records

- OMGA Grant – Propagation classes update
 - Brooke submitted and was awarded \$500 for an OMGA grant to increase BCMG expertise in plant propagation. The goal is to train up folks on plant propagation for future plant sales.
- Update OSU Extension’s guidance for reopening under “modified operations”
 - Contact Brooke or Elizabeth if you need something from the Extension office – hours are limited
 - Brooke reviewed a Decision Tree for Extension programs when considering programming during Covid-19. The preference is for all training to happen online – this guidance is constantly being updated.
 - OSU has an extensive process for seeking approval for in-person training events.
 - The public can drop off plant samples at the Extension office.

Good of the Association

All

- *What will the plant sale look like next year? Should we even have a plant sale? Not only is the plant sale a major fundraiser for our organization, it is also a huge educational opportunity for our members.*
- *What do we want to focus on in the next year with our current environment?*

- *Considerations for greenhouse – where will we locate? If we had a greenhouse on fairground property, we would be locked out.*
- *Alan Taylor reminded us that plant nurseries never closed during the lockdown – so how do we adapt to meet the changing needs in our community?*
- *Marge responded to comments made by Brooke about “private” plant sales.*

Next BCMGA Zoom Board meeting is scheduled for Monday August 3, 2020 at 9:00 am

BCMGA Monthly Financial Summary for June 2020	REVISED Nov 2, 2020			
<i>Cumulative revenues and expenses January 1, 2020 through end of month</i>		2020 Budget	Budgeted Funds	Prior
			Remaining	Month
	12/31/2019			12/31/2019
Beginning Checkbook Balance at start of FY	53,674.71			53,674.71
Revenue (Year to date)				
Dues	256.00			256.00
Insights	16,898.82			16,898.82
Plant Sale	22,767.15			17,874.15
Cash Box Change	450.00			450.00
Sales / Refunds / Grants / Donations / Awards	1,000.00			1,000.00
Checking Account Dividend	32.56			27.00
Total Revenue to date	41,404.53			36,505.97
Expenses (Year to date)				
Insights	8,359.64	8,995.00	635.36	8,359.64
Plant Sale	1,550.40	11,535.00	9,984.60	1,550.40
OMGA dues	1,036.00	1,270.00	234.00	1,036.00
Cash Box Change: Fundraisers	400.00	2,000.00	1,600.00	400.00
BOD / General / Committee	2,774.65	9,270.00	6,495.35	2,751.90
Education & Other Services	453.00	8,265.00	7,812.00	407.20
Gardens	904.23	2,625.00	1,720.77	765.33
Youth Services	0.00	985.00	985.00	0.00
Restricted Funds	220.07	1,000.00	779.93	220.07
Cap Funds	0.00	2,280.94	2,280.94	0.00
Allocations/Donations	0.00	3,050.00	3,050.00	0.00
Total Expenses to date (incl. budgeted & restricted)	15,697.99	51,275.94	35,577.95	15,490.54
Net Income: Total Revenue minus Total Expenses	25,706.54			21,015.43
Transfer--First Tech CU to First Internet Bank (CD #4) June 17, 2020	-20,000.00			
Checkbook Balance - end of month	59,381.25			74,690.14
Minus Capital Funds remaining in checking account	2,280.94			2,280.94
Cash in checking acct. available to BCMGA	57,100.31			72,409.20
OTHER ACCOUNTS				
First Internet Bank of Indiana				
Greenhouse Cap Fund: CD 1 - 1.871 APY (11/19/20)	36,197.53			36,142.57
Greenhouse Cap Fund: CD 2 - 1.464% APY (5/1/21)	20,600.64			20,576.12
Greenhouse Cap Fund: CD 3 - 2.69% APY (7/8/20)	30,786.88			30,719.97
Subtotal Greenhouse Cap Fund CDs	87,585.05			87,438.66
CD 4 (Not Cap Fund) -- 1.18% APY (6/17/20 -- 6/16/2021)	20,009.05	(\$20,000 Transfer plus \$9.05 Int)		0
First Tech Federal CU Savings Account	5.00			5.00
Total All Other Accounts	107,599.10			87,443.66