

**Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting – September 13, 2021**

**Zoom Meeting
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

Attending: Marge Alig, Deborah Hobbs, Deb Kern, Paula Lupcho, Alan Taylor, Jana Tindall, Nancy Tovar, Lynn Trimpe, David Mandel, Rich Taylor, Frank Garcia, Bob Smythe, Diana Allen, Elizabeth Records

The meeting was called to order by President Deb Kern at 6:03.

Gardening Moment:

- Jana grew shelling peas that were past their prime so was saving them for next year. She discovered bugs in her seeds!
- David attended mini college workshop on hydroponic gardening. He was given seeds and has a robust bunch of swiss chard.

Minutes: Marge discovered an entry error in the July Budget Actuals and made the correction – see attached. The minutes for the August Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Pashalle has moved to Portland and will no longer be with BCMGA.

Treasurer's Report

Lynn Trimpe

- Lynn reviewed the checkbook for August. Combined checking and saving balance: \$73,724.66
- Total CD balance: \$112,576.54
- Lynn reviewed the Statement of Financial Position. The total assets of the association are \$186,301.20.

Extension/Board Discussions

Elizabeth Records

- OSU update on event planning:
 - OSU will no longer require checking of vaccination status at non-credit educational, indoor events.
 - Elizabeth recommended that future event planning should include a “back-up plan” if public health restrictions change.
- MG Training for 2022 is scheduled for March – May.
 - The weekly format will include an online class and discussion, and small group outdoor garden labs with an optional Zoom office hour.
- Alan had a question regarding MG access to the Extension Office. Access is limited and people can call Extension and request a time to enter the building.
- Alan is assuming that an indoor, graduations and awards event will not be held this year.

Vice-President

Alan Taylor

- Upcoming Programs
 - The decision was made to cancel the Association picnic, based on the survey sent out to the membership.
 - Alan is working on the program for the October Association meeting.
 - November TBA
 - Gerber Hall is reserved for the December Greens Party if we are allowed to hold it!

Greenhouse Committee

Nancy Tovar

- Nancy reviewed the Committee's progress on finding land for a Greenhouse. The committee concluded that we cannot afford leased land. All other MGAs with greenhouses are on county land at no cost to the association.
- Options discussed:
 - Continue to save and look for property partner opportunities, free land use or cheaper lease options. Wait for potential expansion of Benton Co. fairgrounds.
 - Kathi T. is going to explore a possibility on Cummings Dr. with the owner of Crossroads Auto Repair.
 - Scale back plant production, continue to use and improve PHS. Steps are being taken to install irrigation for growing on propagated plants. There may be potential to install a hoop house. Ask to extend or MOU to at least 5 more years.
 - Explore alternative fundraising options. Get input from all committees. One suggestion was to take over the Spring Garden Festival, invite and charge booth and food vendors to participate. Possibly hold it on the riverfront on a Sunday. Jana Suggested exploring grants (via email).
- Judith Kenner has offered to help with grant writing.

President-Elect

Jana Tindall

- Nomination Committee Update
 - The committee is continuing to solicit volunteers for Board positions. President-Elect, Vice-President, and Secretary positions still need candidates.

Membership

Deborah Hobbs

- Dues/Associate Members
 - Request from a former trainee that would like to be an Associate Member.

OMGA Rep

Rich Taylor

- 236 people participated in this year's Mini College. Net revenue for the event was \$1,469. Sue Nesbitt has copies of all the presentations and workshops on flash drives for anyone who attended and would like to review them again.
- The new OSU Extension Director is Ivory Lyles, formerly of the University of Nevada, Reno.
- The Master Gardener Photo Contest Ends on September 30th. Winners will be announced on October 25th.

Gearing up for Gardening

Paula Lupcho

- Currently, Janet Magadanz is planning on in-person sessions for Gearing Up for Gardening.
- Plant sale is starting to ramp up for dig and divide in October

Communications Committee

Deb Kern

- Open Chair positions/co-chairs
 - There are a lot of open positions for committee Chairs and Co-Chairs
 - Deb suggested that committees could develop short videos about their activities to solicit new volunteers.

Good of the Association

All

- Pete Scott recently lost his wife, Jeanette. Pete's family yearly gives money to CGET. The Association and CGET will send condolences to Pete's family.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm