**Benton County Master Gardener Association**

**Board Meeting**

**June 6, 2016**

**In Attendance:**  Hank Beuttel, Sally Elliott, Steve Jacobs, Judith Kenner, Deb Kern, Jennifer Klammer, Pami Opfer, Sandy Piper, Sheila Schweizer, Rich Taylor, Jana Tindall, and Pat Wray

**Location:** Benton County Extension Offices

President Jennifer Klammer called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Mission Moment:** Jennifer Klammer announced that there were 25 participants in Seed to Supper follow-up workshop after which extra tomatoes and peppers were given away.

**Gardening Moment:** Jana Tindall brought a cutting from Felicia amoena ‘Variegata,” a small blue plant she recently found and likes a lot.

**Adoption of Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the May 2, 2016 minutes as written.**

**2016 Board Visibility Goals Updates**

* **Demo Garden Workshops.** Steve Jacobs reported that 22 signs for Demo Garden Workshops have been approved, are at Oregon State University Printing, and will be put up as soon as possible. The workshops will be free and heldon Saturdays, July 16th, August 20th, and September 10th; topics are cover crops and soil-building, common tomato problems, and garden irrigation and planning for winter.
* **Seed to Supper Follow-up Workshop.** Jennifer Klammer said that the June 25th workshop will be in the Giving Garden at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and will focus on fruits.
* **Farmer’s Market Topic of the Day.** Pami Opfer underlined that these topics will focus on basic gardening information, e.g., the June topic is weeds. Volunteers are still needed.

**Treasurer.** Paula Lupcho was absent from the meeting but submitted the following written reports via email prior to leaving for vacation.

* **May Financial Reports.** See attachments.
* **Plant Sale.** See attachments.
* **Special Allocation Recommendation.** Paula recommended via email (see attachment) that the board does not award 2016 Special Allocations. After carefully considering her recommendation, **it was moved, seconded, and passed to not award Special Allocations in 2016.** Pami Opfer will draft an email to communicate this decision, including an explanation for the general membership and committee chairs.

Steve Jacobs reminded board members that the Demo Garden typically applies for Special Allocations for miscellaneous supplies. A current estimated amount is up to $200. This money will be taken out of the 2016 President’s Discretionary Funds.

**Programs.**

* The Benton County Master Garden Association monthly meetings are suspended for the summer and will begin again September 19th.
* Pami Opfer will send an email regarding one additional tour.

**Search for Excellence.** Judith Kenner reported that Gail Langellotto suggested submitting the Seed to Supper application for the International Search for Excellence Award. Additional information is needed to strengthen the application, especially for the international competition. Suggestions included talking with Sophie Grow to gather more anecdotal stories, meeting with parents for follow-up information, and including a photo collage. After the application is thus strengthened, the board supports submitting it for the International Search for Excellence Award.

**Mini College.**

* **OMGA Mini College Donations.** Deb Kern indicated that quilts plus baskets with multiple items have attracted strong bids in the past; also good are yard art, vacation homes, and unique books.
* **Mini College Travel Reimbursement.** Jennifer Klammer pointed that travel reimbursement is provided for the Benton County Master Gardener Association president, vice-president, Oregon Master Gardener Association representatives, and the nominee for the OMGA Master Gardener of the Year in order to encourage their attendance.
* **Scholarships.** Pami Opfer will announce via email a random drawing for five 1-day scholarships to the Oregon Master Gardener Mini College. Interested people will respond directly to her. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to use an email random drawing to identify seven names, five to be awarded the scholarship and two alternates in case someone from the first five cannot attend.**

**Oregon Master Gardener Association.** See attachment for Deb Kern’s report from the OMGA meeting. Highlights include:

* The OMGA is asking member associations to submit recommendations regarding how to manage an anticipated budget shortfall. Benton County board members should send their input to Rich Taylor or Deb Kern who will then forward the comments to the OMGA.
* In preparation for the 2017 International Master Gardener Association meeting scheduled to be held in Portland, county associations are being invited to submit whimsical decorated bicycles reflecting Portland as the city of bicycles and roses. These bicycles will be spread around the city. A “People’s Favorite” will be awarded $100. The board decided to participate. Sheila Schweizer and Rich Taylor will design and decorate a bicycle for Benton County. Afterwards it will be returned to the BCMGA and locally auctioned as garden art.
* August 22nd is the deadline for submitting information for the September meeting. Jana Tindall will write an article about the Benton County Outreach Committee’s work.
* Mini College will include a panel discussion regarding ways to enhance communication via social media, e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc. Planners are looking for experienced people to be on the panel. They are also looking for an experienced moderator for the August 4th roundtable discussion. Pami Opfer will give Deb Kern names to call as possibilities.

**Marie Madison Scholarship.** Sandy Piper reported that there were six applicants by the deadline—five complete and one incomplete. Scholarships were awarded to Shelby Porter and Victoria Skillman. During the process of reviewing applications, several typos were discovered in the brochure and application materials. They will be corrected before the 2017 distribution of materials.

**Outreach Committee.** Pat Wray brought an enthusiastic report to the board after this committee’s first full year. He began by complimenting Jana Tindall on her job as liaison. After beginning outreach work with a few subcommittees, they soon recognized that in order to do the job and to avoid burnout, additional subcommittees needed to be established. Pat asked the board to consider making the Outreach Committee Chair a member of the board. He summarized the goals and accomplishments of the numerous subcommittees:

* **Broadcast.** Judith Kenner arranged for TV coverage. Maleah Ashford covered radio, including getting free ads.
* **Design.** When Drea Zigler could no facilitate these responsibilities, Signe Danler did all of the work.
* **Photo and Video.** Hank Beuttel served as chair and worked with Rich Taylor in getting photos into Dropbox for others to use.
* **Print.** Kathleen Rochester and Jana Tindall covered these responsibilities.
* **Display.** Carol Preuitt and Judy Shaw took care of display, including arranging for use of the Footwise window.
* **Delivery.** David Shaw developed a spreadsheet of places that would accept posters, signs, and bookmarks and then delivered them all. They need a replacement for this job because David will be moving to Portland.
* **Social Media.** Rich Taylor is covering this job.
* **Recruiting and Retention.** This subcommittee has developed slogans for buttons and distributed them, has arranged for recruitment tables at local nurseries, and has encouraged Associate Members to join. Recommendations are to include photos in the directory, to have fun activities at the monthly association meetings, to develop an exit interview, and to recognize members for service and non-members, e.g., spouses, for a job-well-done in supporting members.

**Extension Report.**

* Pami Opfer reported that a new group needs to be identified to organize the Spring Garden Festival because the Madison Avenue Task Force will no longer assume this responsibity. Extension still wants to be included but will not organize it.
* She also announced that Pat Breen will conduct a plant identification walk on the OSU campus later this month. The exact date has not been set.
* Brooke Edmunds reported that Pami and she are reflecting on the 2016 Training Program regarding both positives and negatives in the delivery (not the content) and will be considering changes in the 2017 program in order to strengthen it. They will be distributing a survey to participants and perhaps establishing an advisory group.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

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Sandy Piper

Secretary