

**Benton County Master Gardener Association
Board Meeting
December 5, 2016**

In Attendance: Hank Beuttel, Christina Clark, Kathy Clark, Sally Elliot, Sophie Grow, Judith Kenner, Deb Kern, Jennifer Klammer, Paula Lupcho, David Mandel, Pami Opfer, Sandy Piper, Sheila Schweizer, Cyndie Shaner, Rich Taylor, Kathi Tucker, and Peggy Worthington

Location: Benton County Extension Offices

President Jennifer Klammer called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Combined Mission and Gardening Moments: Each meeting attendee shared his/her training year and a favorite plant or garden experience.

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the November 7, 2016 minutes as amended.

Extension Report: Pami Opfer reported for her and Brooke Edmunds:

- They are finishing the plans for the 2017 Training Program.
 - Orientation is at noon, today (December 5th).
 - To date there are 20 applicants; she and Brooke are hoping to receive about 5 additional ones.
 - The application deadline is December 23rd.
 - They are planning eight weeks of training meetings plus three on-line modules followed by discussion.
 - There will also be hands-on workshop options.
 - Evaluations will be distributed to the trainees and will focus on their knowledge and how it affects their behavior. Brooke and Pami hope to identify what is different for trainees after having completed the training.
- Evaluations will also be distributed to Seed to Supper participants.

Treasurer: Paula Lupcho presented the Treasurer's monthly reports and the proposed 2017 budget (see attachments):

- Paula highlighted that the Benton County Master Gardener Association continues to be in good shape financially.
- The BCMGA is entering 2017 with funds to cover the proposed budget. Paula noted that each year the organization collects funds to cover the following year's expenses.
- She reminded board committee liaisons that they can check committee month-to-month balances.
- Paula explained the 2017 proposed budget line-by-line.
- **It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the 2017 Benton County Master Gardener Budget as proposed.**

Finance Policy: Paula drew the board's attention to section 2.5.2 under Finances in the BCMGA Policies and Procedures. After discussion, **it was moved, seconded, and passed to amend Sections 2.5.2.1 and 2.5.2.2 to read:**

2.5.2.1 *All fundraisers, including the acquisition of grants, must be approved by the Board.*

2.5.2.2 *All proceeds from fundraisers are considered part of the association's general operational funds unless a grant, award, or donation is restricted.*

Programs: Peggy Worthington reminded the board that the annual Greens Party will be December 8th from 10:00-3:00 in Guerber Hall at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

New Committee Proposal: Kathy Clark addressed the gradual loss of involvement in one-day youth events in which BCMGA has historically participated. For a variety of reasons, these events have lost leadership and volunteer support. Kathy underlined the educational value of the events. **It was moved, seconded, and passed to create a new committee to coordinate youth one-day events.** Jennifer Klammer will identify volunteers to serve on the committee. Paula Lupcho will see that the committee description is included in the Policies and Procedures.

End of Year Reports: Jennifer Klammer complimented the quality of the 2017 annual committee written reports and thanked the committee liaisons for their work. Committee liaisons then summarized their respective committee's work.

Service Levy Update: Kathy Clark reported on the progress for the Service Levy:

- The leadership group, which includes a broad range of Benton County Extension representatives, is requesting the Service Levy to be on the May ballot. Kathy noted that 26 of Oregon's 36 counties already have such levies.
- The purpose is to provide stable dedicated local funds that are necessary to secure state and federal funds.
- A Voter's Guide will be written.
- Costs of promoting this levy proposal include lawn signs, printing and mailing, and hiring a consultant to take care of legal filings.
- Financial support will be solicited from both minor and major donors.
- The leadership group will be asking for volunteer help as the time approaches.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Sandy Piper
Secretary