

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December, 2018

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2019, OSU Extension Service Office

Attendees: Axtel, Sydney; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Bitter, Linda; DeTar, Laurel; Kilkenny, Barbara; Montag, Sandy; Nastasi, Heidi; Rousseau, Sandi; Sanchez, Susan; Slagle, Nancy; Stevens, John; Sturman, Bill; Suits, Rachel

Secretary's Report (Christie): The minutes for the November meeting were approved. Sandy asked Christie to add her to the minutes. *<editorial note: Sandy is already on the email list at sandyhmontag@gmail.com and she should check her junk mail>*

Treasurer's Report (Nancy): Nancy sent out the treasurer's report. She paid the dues and liability insurance. She received a check from the Gorge Community Foundation but has still not received the one from the OSU Foundation. The treasurer's report was approved.

Extension Report (Rachel): Rachel received an email from Gail about an email people are receiving asking them to sign up for a Master Gardener registry. This is not an OSU site. Please don't register. Rachel and Shari will add notes to the mid-month and monthly newsletters.

The office needs to have a new septic system and the work will be scheduled to occur after the anniversary celebration on May 17. The current drain field is under the bioswale.

Rachel is still recruiting and marketing to get new students, and this will continue until the first class. Shari asked Rachel if she can put together a poster. Since the first six classes are open to the public, enrollment will not be closed until the classes start. All continuing Master Gardeners need to take all 6 classes, with the core classes being held later in the year. Rachel will be posting the schedule. Eight people have signed up so far.

Previously presentations were posted in PDF format on the county website, but they will now be posted on the CGMGA website. The county website is for the general public and the CGMGA site is an internal website. There is a link from the CGMGA website to the county one.

An article in the Hood River News indicates a proposed prepared food and beverage operating levy will be on the May ballot. Please support the county in this effort, as it will help fund the Master Gardener program. Rachel would like interested Master Gardeners to submit a letter to the editor in the Hood River

News. This would help Rachel promote the program and all of the work we do in the community. Some discussion points include how the program is changing, the educational components, and what we and the community get from the program. If you do write a letter, identify yourself as a Master Gardener and note that the program falls under the OSU Extension Service, which is partially funded by the county. Rachel suggests that we organize and assign people certain weeks to submit their letters to space them out between now and the election. Rachel will add an article about this in the newsletter and she will discuss the marketing plan with Margo. Contact Rachel if you are interested. Funding of the program will be dependent on efforts like this. Because it is not a mandatory program for the county, it is frequently on the cut list.

She also requests that Facebook users “like” the CGMGA site, because it helps promote the program.

Plant Clinics for festivals are currently not on the schedule. With a possible lower number of members, Rachel wants to prioritize the office clinics.

Recruitment (Shari): Shari has been contacting previous members and she has a list of those who are returning. She put together a survey to see if she can get feedback on why people are not returning.

OMGA Report (Sandy): The International Conference registration is now open and Sandy will be adding an article to the January newsletter.

New Business

Learning Garden (Sandi for Sylvianne): Sylvianne is considering dropping out as the co-leader. Laurel and Sandi will co-lead the learning garden project, but they would like to find someone interested in taking it on.

Sandi will be leading the Japanese Memorial Garden anniversary celebration efforts. The committee met. They received a quote from the Taiko drummers and a 20 minute performance will be \$1K, but they are willing to charge \$900. They sent a list of their requirements for the venue.

The money is payable after the performance. They do need a signed contract committing to the date, however. Shari will add an article to the January newsletter. Shari also committed to asking the Community Partners in White Salmon about borrowing tents. The size needs to be a minimum of 24 x 16. There was a motion to approve \$1500 for the performance and equipment rentals, but it was noted that the Executive Committee is only authorized to approve \$500 without taking the request to the membership. There was a motion to submit the request for approval via email, and this motion passed.

Sandi has been discussing the plans with Maija Yasui. Maija thinks the high school arts department may be interested in having a performance on that day, as well, which might reduce the cost. The performance at the garden would be at 3pm. Maija will go through the original list of donors and sent them invitations (sort of a save the date). She will also try and get an article in the paper. Maija also thinks there is a possibility that letters from local children sent during the Internment could be read at the event. She would need to get permission from the families.

Margo has begun reaching out to the garden clubs about providing flowers for the event.

Rita Saling will be speaking and Sada will be asked if he is willing to speak. Hood River Mayor Paul Blackburn may also be asked to speak.

2019 Plant Sale (Laurel): Planning is progressing well.

Holiday Wreath Event (Shari): There were 12 participants in the greenery event and 35 wreaths were prepared. 20 of these were given to the FISH Foodbank.

Greenhouse (Sandi): The area at the greenhouse for the shade structure needs to be leveled and graveled this spring. Steve showed them where there are extra hoops for a hoop house. There will be a dedication ceremony planned for the greenhouse, which will be dedicated to Dorothy Metcalf.

Calendar (Heidi for Kathy): Kathy requested that anyone with dates to be added to the 2019 calendar should submit them to her by mid-February. She will be sending out a rough draft.

Miscellaneous:

Sandy suggested that the association send a card to Leanne Hogie.

Heidi noted that this has been an interesting year for her as president, and she welcomes the incoming new officers.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley