

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2017, OSU Extension Service Office

Attendees: Bitter, Linda; Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Citlau, Renee; Montag, Sandy; Sanchez, Susan; Slagle, Nancy; Stender, Susan; Stevens, John; Suits, Rachel; Winfield, Bill

Secretary's Report (Christie): The secretary's report for June was incorporated. The minutes for July were not available prior to this meeting.

Treasurers Report (Nancy): Nancy received a check from Intel (matching funds for Christie's volunteer hours). There was an expenditure for the memorial bench at the Parkdale Memorial Garden to honor Paul Marcotte. This expense was approved last year.

Extension Report (Rachel): Rachel identified the people who were low on payback hours and notified them. The Saturday markets have been difficult to fill this year. There has to be two people for the slots. She thinks things like the heat and having to put up the canopy have discouraged people. She is looking for ideas on how to fill the slots. Some suggestions included having volunteers to help set up and take down the canopy and giving people non-clinic payback time for picking up the materials.

Rachel emailed the project leaders and asked them to meet. She wants them to discuss the mission statement and how their projects meet the seven questions in Gail Langellotto's publication. She is having them work on a yearly evaluation of projects to do an assessment.

Extension/MCAREC combined what was formerly Steve & Lynn's horticulture positions into a single commercial horticulture position for Wasco and Hood River counties. The position is now open. There is an additional research position open.

There have been Japanese beetle sightings in Portland. This is a very invasive pest about which Rachel co-wrote a publication. There is an eradication program in place and they are spraying for them and educating about this. If you bring in plants from Portland, make sure you are checking for the grubs. And if you see any sign of this pest in your garden let Rachel know. She sent a publication with information and pictures.

Old Business

Graduation (Shari for Heidi): Heidi has been planning for graduation. The event is scheduled for Thursday, November 2.

Project Staffing (Shari): Sylvie-Ann Whiting is willing to be a co-leader (with Laurel) for the learning garden. L.J. Johnson is taking over the plant sale. Christie will be continuing with labels. Shari is interested in assisting with the propagation. They are hoping to have some propagation workshops in the new greenhouse. No new garden tour leader has been identified.

Master Gardener Volunteers for Projects (Shari): There is concern about this issue, including getting more people involved. One area of interest is off-hours work. Many of the younger members work and need more flexible schedules. Trainees can work with project leaders to see if there is anything they can do off-hours.

Rachel would like additional ideas on how to outreach to newer members about the various projects and how they could participate. One idea is to do a mentor training on how to improve the mentor program and how to get trainees involved. Another is to have mandatory Saturday sessions with trainees where they can be integrated with project information.

Eric noted there are projects around the state with similar concerns, especially if they are large projects, like our learning garden. One chapter categorizes this as educational hours rather than payback hours. Trainees might be asked to donate a set number of mornings throughout their training program to this.

Sue Sanchez discussed having more plant clinics at the County Fair, though this might be hard, due to the heat.

Mentors should be encouraging their trainees to get involved with at least one project and to join committees. Mentors and project leaders need to go out of their way to encourage the trainees and to let them know they are welcome.

John suggested posting a list of “to-do’s” somewhere, like the web page, so people could see what kinds of things are available. Not all of the work is doing garden maintenance – there are a lot of other jobs like setting up classes that are available for hours and we can make people aware of this.

Greenhouse (Eric): The greenhouse committee is in the process of finalizing the permits and working on the feasibility of utilities. They will be breaking ground soon.

FISH (Eric for Susan): Eric told Susan R we will be purchasing the sign for this project. Susan told Eric she feels her position is becoming more secure. Shari will encourage Susan to put something in the newsletter about the FISH garden.

Learning Garden (Shari for Sandi): They had a very successful work party today and the irrigation issues are close to being resolved.

Hood River County Fair (Nancy): There was a photo of the display in the Hood River News. The bee association had a presence, as did the Soil and Water group. The plant clinics went well. They purchased fans, both for the wind theme and to keep things more comfortable.

The grasses from the fair will be cared for over winter and will be included in next year's plant sale. They will be sub-divided in preparation for that. Rachel suggested that they be planted and subdivided from there so there will be grasses available for years to come. Sue Stender volunteered to plant them.

Rachel suggested doing more potting parties earlier, like October, so things look well-established by the plant sale. The new greenhouse will include an outdoor area for perennials, and may include an area with a wind block.

There were two suggestions for fair booth themes, winter gardening and shade gardens.

Library (Susan Stender): There is some overgrowth at the library garden, so they might cut back on plants a bit. There are plants that can be sub-divided for the plant sale, and they may have a potting party at the library to do that.

OMGA (Sandy Montag): The next meeting is in September in Jackson County.

Budget Committee (Shari for Eric): It is time for project leaders to start putting in their budget requests – they are due in September. The process needs to be completed in October. People who are interested in being on the budget committee can let Eric know. Nancy, Heidi, Bill W, and Shari are already working on this committee with Eric.

Nominating Committee (Shari): Shari and Heidi are putting the committee together. Heidi will be rotating into president. We are still looking for a vice president/president elect, treasurer, secretary, and alternate representative for OMGA. If no one is interested in the treasurer or secretary positions, Nancy and John will continue as treasurer and Christie will continue as secretary. Renee is considering being president elect. Linda Bitter is willing to be an alternate secretary. If Renee agrees to be the president elect, Shari would be willing to be the non-officer Executive Committee member to replace her.

Communications (Shari): Shari will start publishing the newsletter in pdf format so it always prints the same.

Nancy has a reimbursement form that was scanned in and asked if that can be included on the CGMGA site.

Elizabeth has moved, so the Facebook page is not being managed. She had been adding information coming from OSU and will probably continue doing that. Deb Travers might be interested in keeping it up in her spare time. Rachel will discuss this with her. It could possibly be done in two postings a week and could include things like updates to work parties and other announcements.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

Meeting minutes taken by Christie Bradley