

Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

9 August, 2016

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 13, 2016, OSU Extension Service Office

Attendees: Bosler, Eric; Bosler, Shari; Bradley, Christie; Carlson, Dennis; Castagnoli, Steve; DeTar, Laurel; Lien, Kathy; McGregor, Kathy; Parrott, Mary; Rousseau, Sandi; Slagle, Nancy; Stevens, John; Suits, Rachel

Secretary's Report (Christie): All of the submitted changes have been incorporated.

Treasurers Report (Nancy): The financial report was distributed for review. Nancy had a question about where to enter the payment sent to Wasco County Master Gardeners. It will be entered under meeting costs. The side-by-side comparison of the endowment funds is available for anyone who would like one.

Extension Report (Rachel): Rachel was notified that Paul Marcotte passed away. When the date of the service is determined, it will be added to the newsletter.

Gail Langelotto is taking time off this fall to finish the Sustainable Gardening Handbook which will not be available until 2018. There will be an entirely new book. Members will need to pay for it but we will consider exceptions for those with financial concerns and new members in 2017 (who would have just purchased the old book).

There is insurance paperwork that needs to be filled out by all of the volunteers. Most have completed it.

Rachel noted that chapter by-laws need to align closely with the OMGA guidelines and Eric noted that they do.

Rachel started a greenhouse conversation with OSU and Hood River County to prepare for any future conversations and actions that may need to take place. This can be a very lengthy process, and part of the process is exploring whether the greenhouse project can even be done on the property. Steve and Rachel will need to stay involved in that part of the process.

Sandi also discussed space in the existing greenhouse with Brian and he is not sure there will be any space available next Spring. This is another consideration to take into account and we need to think of alternatives. Dennis mentioned that Raices rents Vanguard Nursery greenhouse space in Bingen.

Rachel is considering some improvements to training. One format that has been successful is a 1.5 hour presentation followed by a break and hands-on work. One focus will be critical thinking and problem solving.

The new re-certification stickers will be passed out at graduation. The sticker will be applied over the logo on the badge. Most groups do not give new trainees their badges until after they have completed training and their required hours.

Rachel may tweak the schedule next year to ensure that mentees have an experienced Master Gardener with them at all times (not necessarily their mentor) and also to ensure there are enough hours available to do this. Anyone wanting to request plant clinics for her consideration should submit these in March.

(Steve): Steve is working with OSU on the way we can pay the person hired to do garden maintenance, and it will work like the way we pay greenhouse usage. They bill Steve and he sends the bill to Nancy and John (and copies the learning garden leaders).

Steve introduced a tool that is a logic model for planning and evaluating projects. The goal is for projects to ultimately cause a change, through action and learning, and the tool facilitates planning and forecasting for this. They are trying to encourage educational aspects, so there will be a focus on that and aligning activities to meet this goal.

Old Business

OMGA (Eric): The OMGA quarterly budget for 2017 was already approved.

The OMGA is also discussing potential liability issues because individual associations are not recognized as entities apart from OMGA. The OMGA is working to resolve this, and they will be doing the filing and managing this.

At the International Conference, OMGA would like to see individual chapters present displays around the themes of bicycles and roses. There will also be a big emphasis on tours and the learning garden and Japanese heritage garden might be good stops.

The OMGA is also actively recruiting for state officers. Let Eric or Sandy Montag know if you are interested.

The leadership forum is focusing on increasing the utilization of social media. One of the ideas is to reduce the number of newsletters sent out to once a month and increase usage of the website. Renee volunteered to build a website for us and she would like help with the look and feel aspects. Kathy, Rachel, Renee, and Shari will be working on this offline.

Budget Requests (Eric): People should be working on their budgets (which are due at the end of August) and Eric is forming a budget committee. Most of the meetings will be virtual.

One Community Health (Kathy): The garden space OCH has provided will probably be lost this year as they begin planning for construction. CGMGA should be doing less maintenance and more consultation and education. Kathy is working with the leaders to brainstorm on what they want to do in the future. A nearby pastor wants to set up a community garden. It might be good to form a network of community gardens in the area and share resources.

Garden Tour (Shari for Dede): The Garden Tour is planned for June 17 next year. Five of the gardens will be in the Willow Ponds area and there are two others.

Hood River County Fair (Nancy): There were plant clinics every afternoon and there was a photo of the booth in the Hood River News. They may consider changing the times for the plant clinics next year because it was so hot.

Parkdale Memorial Garden (Nancy): This group is building raised beds for a butterfly garden. They are also adding memorial signs for people who contributed and will be adding one for Paul on the arbor he built.

Garden Visit (Mary): There will be a garden visit at Mary's on August 29.

Nominating Committee (Shari): The nominating committee is accepting nominations. The secretary and treasurer have both offered to continue if no one steps up for those positions.

Strategic Plan (Shari): There was a calendar reminder to determine if we needed to review the strategic plan. The response was no review is necessary.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Meeting minutes submitted by Christie Bradley