

# **Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting**

**February 18, 2020**

**Members Present:** Sharon Priest, Randy Forst, Susanne Potts, Michele Wasson, Cindy Strauss, Ann Schweitzer, Deeanna Montgomery, Sara Jordan, Pam Gadberry and Jodie Mahony.

President Sharon Priest called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes from the January Board and General Meeting were presented. A correction was made that the old computers would not be stored with Randy but would be kept by Treasurers Pam Gadberry and Susan Stewart. The Minutes were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pam Gadberry presented the Bank of the Ozarks statement. It was approved. She also shared there would be a peer review of the Annual Financial Report (statement of financial position and income/expense) will be submitted to Paul Nolte by March 10 to review. Those reports will then be signed by Randy and Sharon Priest and submitted to the state office by March 31.

## **Old Business:**

**New Computers:** Pam Gadberry stated 2 computers have been purchased for the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

**Public Education Program:** The Board is still in search of someone to Chair the Public Education Program. It was noted that North Little Rock is receptive to training for their landscaping crew to begin possibly in November before spring maintenance begins. Randy would like to see emphasis on Crepe Myrtle care.

## **New Business:**

**Projects:** Cindy Strauss reported The Contemplation Garden and Whit Stevens projects have not replied regarding their need for new members.

Heidi Simmons of County 76 is requesting the name of all new members and their mentors for the Annuals to Perennials in-service. Cindy will provide the information to her.

**Standing Committee Report:** The Continuing Education Committee met February 4 at the County Extension Office. They agreed 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays of the month at lunch would be the best time to meet. Their responsibilities are to provide 1 or 2 trainings per year to Pulaski County Master Gardeners with activities taking place on weekdays if possible. Advanced training may be possible every 2-3 years. Potential seminars include identification of native trees, those that are invasive, pruning and native tree use in landscaping. Also, a Plant Label Seminar by Don Ford and Christy Bolling at Pinnacle State Park for Chairs and Co-Chairs of all MG projects is being considered.

Michele Wasson stated volunteers are still needed to man the recruitment booth March 14 for Garden Fest to be held at Laman Library in North Little Rock.

**PEST:** Susanne Potts reported PEST will meet Friday, February 21. A Project visitation list will be made at that time. Joellen Beard and Jane Gulley have suggestions to share with the committee. Cindy will provide an updated list of Project chairs.

**Speakers:** Jodie Mahony reported Christina Cole for River Valley Horticulture will be the speaker at the February General Meeting. Someone from Arkansas Game and Fish will speak for the March meeting and a representative from Arkansas Natural Heritage will speak in April.

**PCMG History:** *(Susanne?)* shared that Jane Gulley and others have completed a history of PCMG up to 2019. It is ready to be handed off to another group to maintain. There was discussion of creating a standing committee for that purpose *(is it going to the Butler Center or is already there?)*

**Leave of Absence and Special Requests:** Karen Smeltzer has requested a LOA from the Demonstration Garden to be a full time care giver for a parent.

Scott Mason has requested to continue her LOA from Wildwood.

Jean Rolf who has paid the \$135 registration cost is requesting a transfer from the online class to zoom so she can care for her ill husband. A note will be sent to Julie Treat informing her that the fee has been paid.

All LOA's and requests were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Jordan, Secretary