

Pulaski County Master Gardener

Board Meeting Via Zoom

May 19, 2020

Members present: Sharon Priest, Randy Forst, Pam Gadberry, Sara Jordan, Jodie Mahony, Carol Mendel, Deeanna Montgomery, Susanne Potts, Michele Wasson, Cindy Strauss, Ann Schweitzer and Susan Stewart.

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

Minutes: April Board minutes were presented and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Pam presented both bank statements. The Little Rock Greenhouse currently has netted pretax \$2,656.82 from their plant sale. Dues are coming in, but slowly. After discussing ways to encourage timely dues payment and acknowledging the By-Laws and General Membership need to be consulted, Michele made a motion that dues go up to \$40 after September 1, 2021. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Public Education Program: Sharon recommended tabling public education programs within area Parks and Recreation departments until September, due to disruption caused by Covid-19. She suggested we give some thought to providing a Saturday program to the general public in the future.

History Committee: There is still no one to chair the committee. It will be tabled for the time being.

New Business:

Reimbursements: Chairs and Co-Chairs will be reminded during their Orientation Meeting that reimbursement for funds over the budgeted \$200 must be Board approved before making the expenditure. Cindy will send an email to all project chairs to remind them for the remainder of the year.

Projects: Cindy reported most projects are just maintaining this year. Some are experiencing funding cuts from hosts, fund raising cancellations, small spaces prohibiting workers, projects not being assessable and limited access due to Covid-19.

Standing Committee Report: Carol reported the Continuing Education Committee is planning a full day seminar on trees at the Extension Auditorium in Sept. They are monitoring the Covid-19 situation hoping the seminar will not have to be cancelled. The Little Rock Greenhouse was pleased with their plant sale and thankful to Master Gardeners for their turnout.

PEST: Suzanne reported logistics are a bit difficult for visitations during Covid-19. It was decided Chairs would still fill out the evaluation form. Remaining evaluations will be held virtually on Zoom with the PEST committee and project chairs.

Speakers: Jodie contacted scheduled speakers to postpone their scheduled dates. Randy will be the May 19 speaker.

June and Future Meetings: Randy has made several unsuccessful efforts to contact St. James regarding the possibility of holding PCMG meetings there in July and August. Sharon suggested a Zoom speaker for June. A speaker from River Valley Horticulture was suggested.

Other Concerns: Randy explained work hours for 2020 will be cut in half. Michele made a motion to cut sanctioned work hours to 10 for seasoned members and 20 for newbies. Half of the work hours need to be Sanctioned. The other half may be Sanctioned or Community Outreach hours. Education hours would remain 20 hours for seasoned members and newbies. Jodi seconded. The motion passed.

How to handle Busy Bee's was discussed as not all have access to their projects. Carol moved that Busy Bee's be suspended for 2020. Ann seconded. The motion was approved.

Randy reported Janet Carson will be awarded a life time Master Gardener membership and gold badge. The recognition will allow her to attend offered Master Gardener events. It will be presented to her when we are allowed to once again hold live meetings.

LOA's and Special Requests: There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Jordan