

Pulaski County Master Gardeners  
Executive Board Meeting  
February 15, 2022

Members Present: Cindy Strauss, Randy Forst, Carol Mendel, Sara Jordan, Pam Gadberry, Susan Stewart, Sharon Priest, Jan Brandeburg, Blanca Hernandez and Deena Montgomery. Those absent were Pam Abrams and Nancy Archer.

Welcome: President Cindy Strauss called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 14, 2022, Board Retreat and the January 18, 2022, General Meeting were presented by Board Secretary Deena Montgomery. Treasurer Pam Gadberry made one correction and informed us that she is working on end of the year reports, but they are not completed. Sharon Priest moved to accept amended minutes, and Sara Jordan seconded. The board minutes were approved as corrected. There were no corrections to the minutes of the general meeting. Sharon Priest made a motion to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Jan Brandeburg. The minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Pam Gadberry reported that dues have been coming in during January. Paul Nolte will do a peer review, and he has added 2021 financials to the website. We need to thank Paul for his work for the group. Money for Master Gardener awards was sent.

Assistant Treasurer Susan Stewart announced that membership cards are here. They can be distributed to those who have already paid yearly dues.

Carol Mendel announced that money is being collected for a gift box for Kattie Reddick on her pending retirement from Pulaski County Extension office.

Sara Jordan moved that we accept the treasurer's report, and Blanca Hernandez seconded.

Cindy Strauss said that there is no old business.

Projects: Carol Mendel announced the training meeting for chairs and co-chairs will be held March 10, 9:00-11:00 at the state office. It will be both in person and zoom. She urged all project leaders to attend.

Carol reported that Baptist Rehabilitation has added additional beds and requests to amend their agreement to reflect this addition. This will add to the opportunities for work hours and make project more interesting. Carol Mendel moved that we accept this proposal, and Sharon Priest seconded. The motion passed.

Carol presented a request from the Maumelle Community Center. New chairs want to hold a plant sale to earn money for the project.

Randy said that due to more than one plant sale in a year by our organization taxes must be collected and funds deposited in the Master Gardener account. The proceeds cannot be retained by the project. Also, any indoor sales require social distancing measures. The chairs decided to pull the request. Randy also emphasized that hosts are supposed to fund projects, and that Parks and Recreation gives money to the project. This is separate from the organization budget. Applications for grant money are more difficult, but if approved this will be a budget line item and project can get the money yearly. This explanation can be covered in the chair and co-chair meeting. Members should not buy project items themselves. Projects can apply for funds ahead of spending money. However, Randy emphasized the hosts are responsible for the project expenses as our group offers free labor.

Standing Committees: Sara Jordan has contacted all committees. Randy pointed out the Recruiting Committee will not be working as we are close to membership cap.

Question was raised about whether labeling will be a standing committee or a member at large function. Plans are being made to hold labeling sessions at the Extension Office. The office will have training and maintain inventory of machines and supplies. Randy voiced that there is not a need for a standing committee as all work will be done in the office. This procedure can function as a member at large assignment.

The reporting system is being worked on and will be available the end of March. Members will be reminded to keep work records in the meantime.

Social Committee chairs are stepping down and new chairs are needed. They already have plans made for 2022 activities. Suggestion was made to offer the chair to Michelle Wasson.

Travel Committee chairs are also stepping down, but they have some ideas for possible events during 2022.

The Stuff Committee has found a new vendor. There is no co-chair on this committee.

Busy Bee Committee changes were explained by Chair Deeana Montgomery. The award distribution method changed this year due to covid restrictions. There are packets for each chair containing awards for that individual project, and we ask the chairs to handle distribution. Signatures are needed in accepting packets and awards. Packets will be picked up by chairs or co-chairs at County Extension or by other arrangement. Every effort will be made to offer dremel services such as holding dremel days or offering service at events such as Chair and Co-chair Training Meeting.

Speakers: Jan Brandburg reported that speakers have been scheduled for most of 2022 general meetings. February is Maumelle Community Center. March will be Central Arkansas Naturalists. April is slated to feature Chris Olsen on container gardening. May's program will feature roses. In June Kathy Ratcliffe will highlight the Demonstration Garden Project. In

September we will learn about Pathfinder Greenhouse Project. November features Janet Carson on garden travels.

Pest: Sharon Priest plans project visits beginning in April.

Leave of Absence: Cindy Strauss reported that Becky Ward requested leave due to surgery. Pam Gadberry moved to accept the request and Carol Mendel seconded. Becky will need to pay 2022 dues.

Sara Jordan commented that printed membership books would be an asset. Randy Forst mentioned that the last printing cost around \$3000. We would need to determine the charge to members and discuss the work of updating each year.

Cindy presented a reinstatement request from Deborah Keene as she has been on leave. Sharon Priest moved that we approve the request and Blanca Hernandez seconded.

Cindy mentioned that there is a pending leave request from Stacy Harder.

New Business: Randy Forst presented a request from Old Mill Project to make the new waterfall feature a new bed for the project. Expanding the project was discussed. Deena Montgomery moved that we approve the request, and Susan Stewart seconded.

Spring plant sales were announced by Cindy Strauss. Little Rock Greenhouse sale will be April 15 and 16. Pathfinder Greenhouse will hold an online sale the week before Easter with pickup scheduled for the next week.

Pam Gadberry noted that we will resume work for St. James Methodist Church to show our appreciation for use of the facilities.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deena Montgomery

Secretary