

Pulaski County Master Gardeners

Executive Board Meeting

October 18, 2022

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

Welcome: First Vice President Carol Mendel called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of June 2022 Board and General Meeting and September 2022 General Meeting were presented by Secretary Deeana Montgomery. There was no board meeting in September 2022. Carol Mendel moved that minutes be accepted, and Sharon Priest seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Carol Mendel presented the budget information for discussion. The organization maintains two separate bank accounts containing approximately \$150,000. Board members discussed how to use the funds to benefit the members as our funds are excessive for a non-profit. Suggestions are offering a scholarship for college student majoring in a horticulture field, increasing the allowance for projects to \$300.00 per year, planning retreat for the board, funding the new member reception, and furnishing lunches for the new class. Randy offered that individual projects should not be funded through the budget as they should each have an active participating sponsor. The budget will be voted on in the November board meeting.

Randy advised that the current membership stands at 606 members. Cindy will work with Extension Office to determine how many of these are Lifetime or Lifetime + members.

Sharon Priest volunteered to explore the idea of funding a college scholarship. The amount of \$1500-2000 was suggested.

Old Business: Group discussed whether to continue online broadcast of live meetings in 2023. Concerns include erosion of attendance both online and in person, working members, and the cost of the live production. The idea of recorded rather than live meetings was discussed. St James charges \$75.00 to record a meeting. We pay St James \$1500 per year to hold meetings at the church.

Carol moved that we hold in person general meetings but make a recording of the general meeting available on request from the County Extension Office. The motion was seconded by Jan Brandeburg. A possible method for implementing this idea is an email to membership the day following the general meeting to offer access to the recording. Tina could provide a link the day following the meeting. Carol moved that we continue to record general meetings and make them available on request from the County office. Jan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Projects: Carol reported that project chairs have kept the program going. We are updating the book about projects and plan to furnish it to the new class. Jan asked about how to switch projects. Carol explained that at the end of the year switching is permitted with the member initiating the move. The project chair will notify the county office and the website. Also, Jan had a question about how new projects are accepted. Carol explained the process.

New Business:

Sharon Priest reported on the nominations for 2023. Voting will be held at the November meeting. PCMG Executive Committee nominees are:

President:	Carol Mendel
1 st VP:	Sara Jordan
2 nd VP:	Pam Abrams
Treasurer:	Pam Gadberry
Assistant Treasurer:	Arlene Sevilla-White
Secretary	Deeana Montgomery
At Large:	Nancy Archer, Jan Brandeburg, Susan Rose, Blanca Hernandez
Immediate Past President:	Cindy Strauss

Standing Committees: Sharon reported that the Pest Committee has reviewed 10 projects so far this year. She questioned the need to review two additional projects, Rose Garden and Sherwood Senior Center. Carol reported that the Senior Center has struggled with members. Sharon will meet with the Chair to discuss the project needs.

Sara Jordan reported that several committees need new members. Committees lacking members or chairs are Welcome, Travel, Social, Website, and Newsletter. Carol mentioned that Sara could hold lunch meetings with the chairs, but Randy reminded us that the meeting must follow Affact-08 regulations. Randy reminded us that Sara as VP will plan the Chair and Cochair training meeting next year. Randy informed the board that the final contract for the holiday event needs to be sent to office for signature.

Jan Brandeburg discussed sending a survey to the membership requesting input about topics for future programs.

Carol says that Linda Muldrow requests sustainer status, but information is lacking so this will be deferred to gather additional information. A leave of absence status may be the most applicable.

Carol moved that the meeting be adjourned. Sharon seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Secretary