

Pulaski County Master Gardeners

Executive Board Meeting

April 18, 2023

Welcome: President Carol Mendel called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members Present: Those present were Agent Derek Reed, Carol Mendel, Sara Jordan, Pam Abrams, Cindy Strauss, Pam Gadberry, Arlene Sevilla-White, Nancy Archer, Susan Rose, and Deeana Montgomery. Blanca Hernandez was absent.

Minutes: Minutes were presented by Secretary Deeana Montgomery. Correction was suggested to specify that the State Extension Office would be reviewed by the Pest Committee. Motion was presented for approval of corrected minutes by Pam Abrams and seconded by Sara Jordan. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Pam Gadberry presented the treasurer's report for both the Bank of America and Bank OZK accounts. There was discussion about the process for an internal audit. Pam Abrams moved that we accept the report. Nancy Archer seconded. The report was approved.

Old Business: Carol repeated the plans for the free master gardener t-shirt. The final date to order this shirt is April 30, 2023. The Stuff Committee will order these shirts, and they will be available at the monthly meetings until summer when they will be at Pulaski County Extension Office or projects.

Carol gave an update on the proposal for a new project at St. Joseph's Center. The board voted in the November 15, 2022, meeting to consider the proposal with a presentation from Ruth Landers.

New Business: Master Gardener Valerie Smith presented a proposal for a new Master Gardener Project at Pulaski County Detention Center. A large teaching garden with twelve beds has been working since 2019 serving students at the facility. The prison will be the host and provide funding and water. The project has a chair and master gardener volunteers. Pam Abrams moved that we accept the proposed project, and Nancy Archer seconded the motion. The motion passed. The proposed project will be presented to the membership for a vote.

Reports: First Vice President Sara Jordan reported that the deadline for application for the fall training class is July 31, 2023. Following the deadline board discussion and review will screen the applications and develop a list for in-person interviews to select a maximum of 25.

Second Vice President Pam Abrams reported on Standing Committees. The Travel Committee is planning future trips for the members.

Member-At-Large Susan Rose announced that the speaker today is Bo Renshaw from Harris and Renshaw Physical Therapy. She is securing other speakers or programs for the remainder of the calendar year. The slate of officers will be presented for a vote in November, and a party will be held in December.

Past President Cindy Strauss announced that PEST visits in May will cover Courthouse Rose Garden, Curran Hall, and Mount Holly Cemetery.

A Leave of Absence request was received from member Chris Dent. Dues are up to date. Cindy Strauss moved that we approve the leave request, and Pam Abrams seconded. The motion passed.

Agent Derek Reed voiced concerns about members leaving the program. The Board will consider the question in a future meeting.

Pam Gadberry moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Pam Abrams seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Board Secretary