

Pulaski County Master Gardener Executive Board Meeting

September 19, 2023

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

Welcome: The board meeting was called to order by President Carol Mendel at 10:02 a.m. Blanca Hernandez reported that Tina Coley has resigned at the Pulaski County Extension Service office, and they are searching for a new secretary. Carol requested that Pam Abrams and Sara Jordan communicate by email to Blanca regarding what they need from the county secretary and copy to Derek Reed.

Carol brought up the issue of unpaid dues for discussion.

Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting as emailed to board were reviewed. Pam Abrams moved that the minutes be accepted; Pam Gadberry seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Pam Gadberry presented both Bank of America and Bank OZK account reports. Pam Abrams moved that we accept the reports, and Arlene Sevilla-White seconded. The motion passed.

Assistant Treasurer Arlene Sevilla-White presented a report. She alerted the board to a problem with past due dues.

Old Business: Over the summer break the board approved two leave of absence requests from members Sonia de Peralta and Milana Dennis.

The board recommended sending the Magnolia Chronicle via Constant Contact.

The Board discussed the need to find a chair for the Busy Bee Committee to enable the award program to continue. The program will process awards for the work done in 2023.

A chair and co-chair are needed for the Magnolia Chronicle.

New Business: Cindy Strauss has formed a Nominating Committee of members Sara Jordan, Pam Abrams, Nancy Archer, and Sharon Greathouse. The nominees will be presented for a board vote at the October meeting.

Derek will hold a mentoring class for the mentors of our new class of master gardeners. Currently the interviewers from the board are to follow up with the new class until they are assigned to projects. Sara has received requests from several projects for new members.

The IT committee headed by Paul Nolte is requesting new members.

Carol announced that we will begin working on County 76 awards. Members will be reminded to prepare nominations and the form will be available soon. Voting will take place at the November meeting with winners will be announced in December. Derek and Pam will secure the trophies.

The PCMG Christmas celebration will be held at Chenal Country Club.

Derek reported that a leave of absence request was received from member Mary Metzger but vote will be held. There has been a request for sustainer status from member Cori Fetters. Cindy moved that we approve the request, and Pam Abrams seconded. The request was approved by vote.

Reports:

Projects: Sara Jordan reported that the new training class has been selected. Seventeen projects have requested new members. Training begins October 11, 2023, at the State office and continues once a week until November 15, 2023. Projects are scheduled to send two members at an assigned date to present information about the project. Only a flyer or brochure can be distributed to prospective members in the class.

Standing Committees: Second Vice President Pam Abrams said that the Busy Bee Committee has already been discussed. She requested suggestions for Stuff Committee items. The committee will take orders at the October meeting for delivery after the first of the year. The new class will be able to order during training.

PEST: Cindy Strauss reported from the PEST reviews. The committee visited the Home for Healing, War Memorial, and Wildwood. War Memorial is experiencing some issues. Wildwood chair Cherith Beck reported wanting to make the Woodland area wheelchair accessible.

At Large: Susan Rose reported on today's speaker, and she reviewed speakers for upcoming meetings. She announced that the Iris Society has donated iris rhizomes for door prizes.

Nancy Archer reported that the new training class has 28 trainees. She has added two trainers to the committee. She asked for board members to help on the first day of training on October 11, 2023.

Blanca Hernandez announced that there will be a pruning workshop.

Pam Abrams moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Cindy Strauss seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Board Secretary