

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Executive Board Meeting

October 17, 2023

Members Present: Carol Mendel, Sara Jordan, Pam Abrams, Cindy Strauss, Arlene Sevilla-White, Susan Rose, Melody Parsley, Derek Reed, and Deeana Montgomery were present.

Welcome: The meeting was called to order by President Carol Mendel at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 19, 2023, meeting were presented by Secretary Deeana Montgomery. One correction was made by Deeana. Susan Rose moved that we accept corrected minutes and Cindy Strauss seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by vote of the board.

Treasurer's Report: As Treasurer Pam Gadberry is absent, the budget review and vote are delayed until the November meeting. However, work has proceeded on budget changes. A new budget committee has been appointed by Carol. The committee consists of members Sara Jordan, Pam Gadberry, Carol Mendel, Arlene Sevilla-White and Andy Kessel. A meeting regarding the merging of our funds will be held next week. Derek Reed, Blanca Hernandez, Carol Mendel, Sara Jordan, Pam Gadberry and Arlene Sevilla-White will attend.

The Assistant Treasurer's report was presented by Arlene Sevilla-White. The main topic discussed was past due dues. Arlene presented statistics regarding dues which will be considered at the 2024 planning meeting. Melody Parsley brought up the inability to access project work hours recorded in the state reporting system. She will work with Derek on this issue.

Old Business: Nominations for County 76 awards were discussed. Sara Jordan said that email reminders will be sent to projects that October 31 is the deadline for our county nominees to be received.

Communication with county master gardeners was discussed, and Melody and Derek will work on setting up Constant Contact for the members. This will help in getting reminders and priority information to members.

Susan Rose reported that the board is seeking a new chair for The Magnolia Chronicle. Three members are interested.

New Business: Cindy Strauss, Nominating Committee Chair, has been working with the nominating committee of Cindy, Pam Abrams, Sara Jordan, Sharon Greathouse, and Nancy Archer to prepare a slate of board position recommendations. The slate consists of President: Sara Jordan, First Vice President: Pam Abrams, Second Vice President: Michele Wasson, Past President: Carol Mendel, Secretary: Deeana Montgomery, Treasurer: Andy Kessel, Assistant Treasurer: Arlene Sevilla-White, At Large: Susan Rose, Melody Parsley, Ann Griffin, and Elizabeth Devlin. Susan Rose moved to accept the slate as presented, and Sara Jordan seconded. The motion passed by vote of the board. This slate will be presented for a paper ballot vote at the November general meeting.

At the same meeting a paper ballot vote will decide the county nominees for County 76 awards.

Miscellaneous: Carol reported that the new training class is outstanding. Derek reported that members of various projects are attending training classes to present information about their project. The mentor training class will be held following the general meeting today in the Jones Room. Carol reminded the board that the November Master Gardener meeting will be early on November 14, 2023. The Christmas Social will be held December 5, 2023, at Chenal Country Club.

Reports: First Vice President Sara Jordan reported that new master gardener training is going well and that two representatives from each project are making presentations. She reminded the board that until the new members are assigned a project, we are to continue to mentor our contacts.

Second Vice President Pam Abrams reported on Standing Committees. The Travel Committee plans no additional trips this year. The Social Committee is meeting today. The Busy Bee Committee is organized with a new Chair, Harold Abbey. Derek will order metal bees for the presentation in February 2024. The Stuff Committee is preparing a new order form for the website for ten new master gardener items with prices.

Carol mentioned that a northwest Arkansas county emailed a request for information on our PEST program, and she asked Cindy to respond.

Past President Cindy Strauss presented a request from the Mount Holly Project to amend the project feature of New Dawn Roses due to disease problems. Instead, they want to add cradle style grave markers. This proposal has been approved by the Mount Holly board and they will fund the project. Cindy moved that we approve the change and Pam Abrams seconded. The motion passed by vote of the board.

At Large member Susan Rose discussed upcoming programs. Carol mentioned that after the November general meeting there will be a lunch reception for new and old members.

Carol reported that there will be a meeting November 6, 2023, to work on the Magnolia Chronicle.

Derek reported inquiries about having a medical kit available on the project workdays, but liability prevents this. Melody Parsley said that emergency contacts for members need to be considered.

Susan Rose reported that the PCMG St. James United Methodist Church volunteer workday finished all tasks with 14 volunteers. The need to solicit more volunteers for this event was discussed.

Arlene moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Cindy seconded. The motion passed by vote of the board. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Board Secretary