

## **Pulaski County Master Gardeners Executive Board Meeting**

**November 14, 2023**

**Members Present:** Carol Mendel, Sara Jordan, Pam Abrams, Pam Gadberry, Arlene Sevilla-White, Susan Rose, Melody Parsley, Nancy Archer, Derek Reed, and Deena Montgomery were present.

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October 17, 2023, executive board and general meetings were presented by Secretary Deena Montgomery. Deena made one correction. Pam Gadberry moved that the corrected minutes be accepted, and Pam Abrams seconded. The minutes were approved by vote of the board.

**Treasurer's Report:** Assistant Treasurer Arlene Sevilla-White presented the Bank OZK report. She also provided information on past due problems and project usage of master gardener allotted funds for projects. Pam Gadberry moved that we accept the Bank OZK report and Arlene seconded. The motion passed by board vote.

The proposed 2024 budget was considered with a presentation from Treasurer Pam Gadberry. She also presented the Arvest report. Arlene moved that we accept the Arvest report, and Pam Abrams seconded. The motion passed by vote of the board. The State guidelines have changed, and the state requires that we merge our two accounts by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. We did not present the budget in October as usual due to these proposed changes. Pam discussed the changes, and the decision was made to vote on a budget in January and amend the budget as necessary to comply with state guidelines. By that time the new board treasurer will be in place.

**Old Business:** The new printed training books were discussed. Pulaski County will preorder 150 books and sell them at a meeting for \$50 each to the members on a first come basis.

An update on the Magnolia Chronicle was provided by Melody Parsley, Member-At-Large. A new committee has been formed with Co-Chairs Dixie Land and Sheryl Porter.

Derek Reed, County Agent, reported on Constant Contact. This communication method will streamline communication within the organization. There will be three approved users, such as the agent, PCMG president, and Magnolia Chronicle chair. There is a discounted charge for use of the program.

**New Business:** Derek presented requests for change of status. Leave of absence was requested by Beverly Harrell. Follow-up is necessary because the reason for the request does not correspond to bylaw requirements. Requests for sustainer status were made by Ann Russell and Karen Mauermann. No board approval is required for sustainers. Cindy Alwood has a medical injury and requests leave of absence, but she has completed her hours. She has continuing problems. Melody Parsley moved that we approve the request, and Pam Abrams seconded. Her leave was approved by board vote. Kathie

Burris requested a medical leave of absence. Sara Jordan moved that we accept this request, and Susan Rose seconded. The leave was approved by vote. There is still a question regarding Cory Fetters request for sustainer status. Derek will follow up.

Carol remarked about changes in the board for 2024. Cindy Strauss will rotate off the board from her position as Past President. Pam Gadberry is retiring from her years of service as Treasurer. Blanca Hernandez and Nancy Archer will rotate off the board from the Member-At-Large position.

Nancy Archer will continue as Chair of the Training Committee. Derek reported that he has booked the State Office for training for October and November 2024 pending the state announcing the exact dates.

Carol went over the end of year business for 2023. The slate of officers for 2024 will be voted on at the general meeting today. Voting for state award submissions will also take place today. Preparations are being made for the change of officers in January. Pam Abrams is working on the project chair lists and training. Michelle Wasson will work on the committee assignments. The new budget will be voted on in January.

**Reports:** First Vice President Sara Jordan reported on projects. At least one new member has been assigned to each project requesting additional members except for one project. Sara recommends a bigger training class for next year as many projects need new members.

Second Vice President Pam Abrams reported that the Stuff Committee will take orders today at the general meeting for a variety of basic items. The deadline for ordering is November 30, 2024, by cash or check. The Social Committee will sell tickets today for the Christmas Social and Award Event on December 5, 2024, at Chenal Country Club.

Member-At-Large Susan Rose reviewed the plans for speakers for 2024 general meetings, and she asked for suggestions for topics or speakers.

Susan moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Arlene seconded. The board voted to adjourn at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Board Secretary