

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Executive Board Meeting

June 18, 2024

Highlights: No board or general meetings July/August except called board events; nominating committee to select new slate of officers; new email for all data base changes; first annual PCMG Appreciation Day June 20, 2024; new PCMG class to be selected with fall training.

Call to Order: The meeting of the executive board was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Sara Jordan. Those present were Sara Jordan, Pam Abrams, Michele Wasson, Carol Mendel, Andy Kessel, Susan Rose, Melody Parsley, Elizabeth Devlin, Ann Griffin, Derek Reed, and Deeana Montgomery. Arlene Sevilla-White was absent.

Minutes: The minutes were presented by Deeana Montgomery. One sentence of the minutes regarding the distribution of the Magnolia Chronicle was corrected by Melody. Otherwise, Carol moved that we approve the minutes as amended, and Andy seconded the motion; the minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Kessel presented the financial report. Michele mentioned the problem of past due reimbursements. Derek commented that due to additional paperwork required by the state some reimbursements have been delayed. Going forward, the reimbursements should be done within a month. Michele moved that we approve the report, and Pam seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of the members.

Assistant Treasurer's Report: Andy presented the report for Arlene Sevilla -White. Seven additional members have paid dues. Arlene has let the board know that she has plans to move and can no longer serve as assistant treasurer. There was discussion regarding the need for the assistant position. The position is in the bylaws and serves as backup to the treasurer. The position requires math and computer skills and handles all dues. The nominating committee will consider this position in their plans.

PCMG database information was discussed. There are plans to establish one email for changes in the database to centralize the record keeping. The new email is pcmg.update@gmail.com. It may be used immediately and will be officially announced next month. Derek and Andy are moving the ownership of the PCMG website from Paul Nolte to the county extension office. A new extension employee is being trained.

Reports: Projects: Pam Abrams noted that the assistant treasurer and others have worked diligently to contact past due members and bring the membership rolls up to date. She suggested letters to LOA and sustainer members when granted to outline specifically the term of leave and obligations. She also reported that the Pathfinder Greenhouse Project continues to have issues. No future chairperson has come forward, and repairs are needed. She will meet the project members and assure them that the board is working to find a solution.

Standing Committees: Michele Wasson presented a written update concerning the various committees. The Continuing Education Committee will meet June 25, 2024, to plan the next training session. The Event Committee has planned the October event at The Kathy Ratcliffe Garden at the Vines

in Ferndale. The Magnolia Chronicle Committee will have a July/August issue. There will be no meetings in July and August, so the Program Committee is working on fall programs. The Record Keeping Committee is seeking an assistant chairperson. The Stuff Committee will meet with some members of the board on June 19, 2024. The Travel Committee recently had a trip to Izzy's. Fall events are next on the schedule. The Website/Directory Committee is working on a copy of the directory. The new Gmail account will be used for directory changes. The other committees have no report.

PEST: Carol Mendel referred to the Stuff Committee meeting and will send an email to the board with suggestions.

She also reported that the Nominating Committee will meet for the selection of a slate of officers and to put together the new class for MG training. She asked the board members to recommend people for the various offices. The group will need candidates for assistant treasurer, second vice president, At-Large, and other project and committee positions. She announced that PEST will meet July 9th, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the extension office.

Derek commented that the Horticulture Hotline is not staffed, and these positions might be the ideal slot for many members to work permanently or occasionally to obtain project hours. Training could be offered.

At-Large: There is no report.

Unfinished Business: There is no unfinished business.

New Business: Pulaski County Master Gardeners Appreciation Day proposed by member Arline Jackson has been approved by the Pulaski County Quorum Court. The recognition ceremony will take place June 20, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Rose Garden. It will be held yearly on the third Thursday of June each year.

Leave of Absence requests were discussed. Cathy Mayton requested Sustainer status. Carol moved that we approve the request, and Michele seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote of the board.

Derek brought up the new master gardener class. The deadline for applications is July 31, 2024. Board interviews will begin in August. This year there will be an online class offered only for full-time workers.

Sara reminded us that there will be no general meetings in July and August, but the board will be working on various issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Board Secretary