

## Pulaski County Master Gardeners Executive Board Meeting

May 21, 2024

**Call to Order:** The meeting 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, Arlene Sevilla-White, Melody Parsley, Susan Rose, Denise Devlin, Ann Griffin, Derek Reed and Deean Montgomery.

**Minutes:** The minutes were presented by board secretary, Deean Montgomery. Carol Mendel moved that the minutes be approved as presented, and Michele Wasson seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was presented by treasurer Andy Kessel. Andy commented on the excellent earnings from the greenhouse sales. He mentioned that we did not make money on the STUFF Committee merchandise last year, but Michele pointed out that we have made a profit in the past. The board discussed the cost of Continuing Education events. The speakers will receive an honorarium or donation to their funds. Derek Reed suggested a \$50 honorarium and said that it is the duty of the chair to send the payment to the speaker. The goal of Continuing Education is to break even on programs. Melody Parsley moved that we accept the financial report, and Pam Abrams seconded. The motion passed by vote of the board.

**Assistant Treasurer's Report:** Arlene Sevilla-White is continuing to contact members regarding payment of dues and status of membership. At this point 70 members have not paid dues for 2024. Derek has sent letters to 24 people who have not met requirements for membership. Arlene furnished the list to Pam for projects. Arlene will furnish the current drop list to the board and Harold Abbey. Pam moved that the report be approved, and Andy seconded. The motion passed by vote of the board.

**Reports: Projects:** Pam Abrams reported that there are issues with Pathfinder Greenhouse. The grant has expired, and the greenhouse needs repairs. Also, there is no current chair and few members. Pathfinder will provide water and electricity but no other funds. Normally PCMG can return a portion of earnings back to the greenhouse projects as they are profitable. Pam will reach out to the project and arrange a meeting. She commented that another issue has occurred with the Demonstration Garden Project. Derek will comment on the problem.

**Standing Committees:** Michele Wasson furnished a written report regarding committee plans. The Busy Bee Committee will hold the final dremel team table in the lobby following the general meeting. Continuing Education Committee had their latest event in April. They would like to offer contributions to the presenters. The Event Committee held the Spring Luncheon on May 15, 2024. There will be an event at the Garden at the Vines in October. The Magnolia Chronicle has posted the May/June issue on the website. Melody asked that it be announced by email or in the weekly digest when the Chronicle is posted so that it is easier to locate. The Travel Committee has planned several events including Heather Isbell's Garden in Roland, Scott Lavender Farm, and Izzy's Native Plants. The Website Committee will offer the printed member directory in September. Since Paul Nolte will step down from the committee in September, Cindy Strauss suggested presenting him with a gift at the September meeting.

**PEST:** Carol Mendel thanked the board for attending PEST tours, and reminded members that the next PEST review is scheduled for June 11.

**At-Large:** There is no business to report.

**Unfinished Business:** Derek Reed offered a detailed report on the STUFF Committee. The proposal before the board by River City Print and Imaging was discussed at length. The startup fee of approximately \$1500 with yearly maintenance of \$500 as well as a \$75 fee for each additional item after the first 6 items seemed excessive. Items would be ordered directly from the website with additional fees for shipping. In addition, a new committee with chairs and members would have to be established. Sara and others voiced concerns about costs but also thought the membership valued the items offered by the group in the past. Carol mentioned that she has discussed the issue with others, including Janet Carson, and believed we could work out a solution. Derek suggested that we consider presenting an idea to County 76 to take over offering items to statewide master gardeners. Others thought it would be best to retain control internally and find a way to proceed. Derek and Sara suggested that we table the motion and do more research. Carol will organize a group consisting of Janet Carson, Carol Mendel, Sara Jordan, Pam Abrams, Michelle Wasson, and current Stuff Committee to pursue a solution.

**New Business:** A PCMG Appreciation Day has been proposed by PCMG member Arline Jackson. She has discussed the proposal with Judge Barry Hyde, Pulaski County Judge. The proposal mentions an annual recognition day for county master gardeners held at the Courthouse Rose Garden. The board previously considered this idea with an email presentation. Arline will present the idea at the next Quorum Court for approval.

There is a pending suggestion for a Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program at 4-H in Ferndale next to our Demonstration Garden Project. Dr Amanda Perez received a grant in 2020 for \$100,000 to build a training classroom and kitchen to promote food safety and urban gardening. It would be built next to the MG Project and requests access to the Demo Garden as an example of raised bed gardening. The current proposal is for 3 to 5 years, and the plan after this is uncertain. The project host provides electricity and water but little maintenance at present, and it is uncertain what extra work, expense, and demands this would make on PCMG project members.

Change of status requests were presented. Fay Dobbins requested sustainer status. Melody moved that we approve the request and Susan seconded. Regina Kay Harris also requested a change to sustainer status. Pam moved that we approve the request, and Ann seconded. Both motions passed by vote of the board.

Sara announced that the Pulaski County Award for Friend of Master Gardeners from Cammack Village Project was submitted to state and won in that category.

**Adjourn:** Pam moved that we adjourn the PCMG Board Meeting, and Andy seconded the motion. Motion passed by vote of the board. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deeana Montgomery

Board Secretary

