

Yamhill County Master Gardeners Association

Board Meeting Minutes February 10, 2016

Donn Callaham
Pat Fritz
Candace VanZanden
Apryl Garmon
Linda Mason
Doris Cummins
Polly Blum

Linda Coakley
Carol Parks
Sue Nesbitt
Gene Nesbitt
Anna Ashby
Tom Canales
Rita Canales

Tonia Beebe
Nancy Woodworth
Stephanie Janik
Sylvia Connor
Ruth Estrada
Randy Williamson
Alan Wenner

(this list taken from sign-in sheet at meeting)

Meeting was called to order by Randy Williamson at 10:03 a.m. on the above date.

First Item was Randy's apology to the membership for 2 emails he issued targeting another YCMGA member. The board suggested he also write an apology—on the part of the entire board—to Heather. Randy agreed to do so.

Amendment of January minutes: Linda Coakley stated that information she had sent in for January minutes was missing. Several people complained they hadn't seen the email with the minutes, which was emailed 1/15/16. Mention was made that Newberg Farmers' Market is still an MGA option (which the secretary had understood it was not). *"Our plant sale will be held in the Leslie Lewis Pavilion 9-3 on April 30, and 11 to 2 on May 1 in the Wiser Pavilion located in the Yamhill County Fairgrounds in McMinnville. We are trying a 1.5 day sale this year. The signup book for the sale should be in the MG office by the first of February. The greenhouse will do annual and vegetable seeding on 9, 16, and 23 February. New class mentees will be able to sign up for seeding on 28 January, space will be limited to 4 people this session. Asked the mentors to stress the fact that seeding starts promptly at 9 a.m. and for mentees to be punctual so the training does not have to be repeated. By Linda Coakley"* This information (with more details) was also in the Jan. 1 edition of the "Grapevine." **Apparently, someone did accept the January minutes as amended.**

Secretary's report consisted of all the above interchanges.

Treasurer's Report: Carol reported that the organization has \$18K+ at the end of January. There have been 71 member renewals. Pat motioned to accept the report; Tom seconded it.

President-Elect Report: Pat reported that a clinic was operated the last day of the YCSWCD native plant sale. There were 2 contacts, but good publicity, and they sold some birdhouses and t-shirts.

Representative's Report: Apryl presented a condensation of an enormous and highly detailed annual report for OMGA. The report for YCMGA will be available next week, which will cover all activities. At the next meeting Linda will need to substitute for Apryl. In the meantime, members are asked to consider 3 options for budgeting for the next 3 years. However, Polly motioned that we wait until Linda gets more information on the choices from OMGA, and Tom seconded the motion. Sue Nesbitt will have the additional information.

OMGA Report was also given by Apryl. The next board meeting will be 3-05 and Linda will be the rep. President Al Cook has resigned, so his position needs to be filled. Anyone is allowed to do the job, though it should be a board member. The balance of her report involved the financial report and organizational decisions discussed by her above.

OSU Staff Report: Heather is still on leave.

Announcements/Correspondence: Randy shared a letter from YCAP, inviting MGA to participate in a food drive. There was no date mentioned, nor other details. Donations from gardens are not "counted" by YCAP, and Randy will get the details. With great enthusiasm, Anna suggested sending the invitation to Heather, giving some breathing room for members. Also, members already bring canned food to the banquet; Linda Mason offered to check out the situation.

Alan reported that publicity for the “Spring into Gardening” event is wrapped up. Tom will distribute posters in Dayton. Volunteers are still needed: Anna took several posters for display at Allison Inn. Publicity for the plant sale will begin once the Gardening event is completed. Alan also mentioned that KLYC radio did an outstanding job of giving us spots, and did so for an extremely reasonable fee.

Greenhouse: Gail reported that staff had begun planting seeds already. The members meet every Tuesday at 9:00. They also expect to get the vegetable plugs from Yoshitomi Nursery soon.

Propagation: Polly reported on the imminent plugs. Personnel need more potting soil, and hanging plants are progressing.

Plant Sale: Sylvia regretted to announce that as of this year every organization/booth at the sale was required to buy liability insurance, and provide proof of purchase. At the moment cost seems to be about \$100 per booth, and with the \$50 per booth fee from MGA, may prove too expensive for some vendors to participate.

Camellia Festival will be on Saturday 4-19. Sign-up sheet is in the office; at least 2 persons are needed to operate the booth, with one being a veteran. Sue emphasized that though there is minimal desk experience, it is loads of fun!

Education/Outreach Committee report was given by Ruth. She has already helped the *Grapevine* by sending in detailed information to be published. Here is a quick summary of dates:

- 4-09 and 4-10 *Fuchsia Days at Fred Meyer (longer than previously)*
- 4-16 *Wilco in both Newberg and McMinnville*
- 4-23 *Wilco in McMinnville*
- 5-14 *Fred Meyer and Kraemers in McMinnville*
- 6-11 *Wilco in both Newberg and McMinnville*
- *All clinic hours will be 10-1.*

Ruth was also kind enough to provide a complete and organized set of notes to the Secretary, to insure accuracy. Speakers are being vetted for meeting preparations, and to date there are 8 speakers committed (to speaking). They are: Anna Ashby (Winter Gardening); Patti Gregory (Greenhouse & Propagation); Alan Wenner (Tools, raised beds, cloches, tomatoes); Marcia Sherry (containers); Norm Abrams (Propagation); Michael O’Loughlin (Snakes, amphibians, and their relatives); Bob Grossman.

Proposed monthly meetings will have both social and educational components, 50/50 time allotment. A specific date needs to be chosen: Through Kelli, the third Thursday of each month was found to be available, to take place in the PWA from 3 to 5 p.m.

Ruth also identified areas on which to focus:

- *It would help immensely if committee members giving reports sent in their notes to the editor or the secretary.*
- *We should encourage everyone to attend board meetings to keep informed.*
- *Randy would like monthly meetings to begin in January, to encourage mentees to become involved.*
- *Members should try to email or print their notes, to promote accuracy and more amicable meetings.*
- *Members need to check their garbage bins or recycling if they did not receive notes within 2 days of the meetings.*

Garden Tours: David Christie was absent.

Library: Beth Durr was absent.

Herbarium: Eileen was absent; Randy summarized the extent the collection and that our chapter was responsible for sending in a new invasive on the watch list. It was reported to the Native Plant Society.

Community Gardens: Linda Mason reported that the **McMinnville Community Garden has been selected as a bonus garden for the 2016 McMinnville Garden Club Garden tour the 26th of June.** Garden organizers will be available to show and inform people about the garden. Announcements will be in garden club newsletters; people are already signing up for their spots (which are only \$25 for a whole season); official opening will be 3-19. **Clean-up began at the garden this past Sunday (2-08).** Official Opening will be on 3-19. Linda will make a presentation about the Garden to the trainees on 2-11. **TYhje Mac Garden Club will list the Community Garden as a Bonus Garden for its annual garden tour at the end of June.**

McMinnville Farmers Market is still without volunteers. Randy said he will be sure it is covered by someone, and that a set-up and take-down crew is needed in addition to the desk people. He mentioned that the “girls” (bringing some moans from the audience) could not physically do set-up and take-down. The curriculum is ready, but Rita brought up that we need new “carryalls” for the supplies. Gene emphasized that we should try industriously to engage all members, not just the core group. Ruth reiterated the point that requests for assistance from members must be made *personally, face-to-face*. (It is more difficult to worm out of helping when physically hemmed in by other members).

Newberg Farmers Market, Sue reported, is moving back to First Street, which is a much more visible spot. It will be on Wednesdays from 1 to 6, but parking is an issue. There is a strong need for “sweepers” who wander through the market, gently but firmly herding customers to the MGA booth.

Mentoring is going well, according to Randy.

Mini-College is also going very well, and will take place August 4 and 5. There will be a potluck on 8-4 (but no classes) at the Community Gardens. About 80 people may attend (judging from past events).

Radio: Ruth reported that the program is very successful, with her, Kyle, Ray, and Sharon participating.

Scholarships applications have now been sent to all area high schools, and are due back by 4-30.

Spring into Gardening report by Gene was very positive. Ruth has done an excellent job of procuring and processing speakers, and the number of sponsors is unusually large. There are \$2800 in cash donations (including cash and prize donations) so far from **20 (earlier report incorrectly stated there were 29)** community sponsors. There are now 47 registrants, plus more expected from Salem. There were questions about the irrigation class, which is **ON**, and will be hands-on. It’s not on the website yet, but will be rapidly.

MG Facebook Site: Rita is seeking more material, particularly re: ongoing MG events. More photos are needed.

MG Website was provided by Tom, as Jeff is still sporting about. The new completely integrated website will include everything related to YCMGA including “Members Only.” That should come online after “Spring Into Gardening.” It is simply “**YCMGA.org**.”

Seed-to-Table will begin this Saturday, and is already filled to capacity (with 20 participants). 25 very small kids are also enrolled, forcing Ashley to desperately plead for help in managing them. Tonia has graciously agreed to be the bilingual teacher, while Newberg Head Start is the host organization. As Gene succinctly stated, “It will succeed as long as we don’t blow it.”

Financial policies are in the Resource Manual and online; **everyone is asked to bring a copy to the next board meeting.**

Reaching Out: Gene reminded members to actively and personally reach out to new class members to get them involved. Waiting until April would be too late, so last year’s mentors should now contact their former mentees (who are no longer visible). Contact should be made personally by phone or email. That means no mass mailings.

Final Note: As Secretary, Donn needs people to email him with corrections to these notes **right away**, rather than waiting a month. That is why the notes are sent out within 2 days of the meeting. If people do that he will be able to have completed and corrected notes ready for the board meeting, saving time and nerves for everyone.

At 11:48 Anna made a motion to end the meeting, and Apryl seconded it. Therefore, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m