

Yamhill County Master Gardeners Association

Executive Board Minutes for May 11, 16.2

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

In attendance: (Bold = Board)

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| Linda Mason | Carol Parks | Tom Canales | Stephanie Janik | Pat Fritz |
| Randy Williamson | Apryl Garmon | Linda Coakley | Anna Ashby | Donn Callaham |
| Sylvia Connor | Gail Price | Eileen McBride | Cathy Burdett | |

First Item was approval of secretary's minutes from last month. The secretary himself motioned they should be accepted, and Tom seconded the motion, so they were.

Treasurer's Report: Carol reported that she emailed the financial records to involved members, plus made hard copies. The checkbook and the bank balanced, which is pleasant. YCMGA at the moment has approximately \$16K plus in funds, not including income from the plant sale. There was a technical problem: the Quickbook pdf conversion would not work on Carol's own computer because the 2010 version is no longer supported. OMGA treasurer suggested use of Quicken, and purchase of a computer solely for use by YCMGA treasurer, at her home. Carol wanted to stay with Quickbooks, so Linda motioned to make the purchases, Apryl seconded it, and it passed.

OMGA Representative's report: Apryl has presented the work done by YCMGA regarding the 3 choices for budgeting for OMGA for next year. The board received the report, but apparently our chapter is the only one to have done this so far. There will be another meeting in June regarding choice of options

Spring Into Gardening for 2017: Gene has already reserved the Community Center for March of 2017, including the addition of another lecture room.

Seed-to Supper Program: It was reported on behalf of Gene (absent) that Willamina is interested in the program and will host an organizational meeting in Willamina on May 19th. Participation by YCAP, Head Start, and Master Gardeners has been strong. McMinnville Head Start is also interested in a fall Seed-to-Supper class. People who can teach this class in Spanish are needed: notify Gene if you can help.

Demonstration Garden at Fairgrounds: The demo. Garden has been cleaned up, and is ready for refurbishing. Jeff Fahey saved the day by installing the shade cloth, since the rest of the crew was vertically challenged. Propagation is now essentially empty, as it should be after the plant sale.

Education/Outreach Committee report was given by Pat. Focus now is on the 50/50 meetings: half education, half talking and eating. (All are 3-4 p.m). **All in Public Works Auditorium.**

5/14: Plant clinics at Fred Meyer and Kraemer's Garden Center.

5/19: Michael re: amphibians in the garden.

6/11: Plant Clinics at Wilco in Newberg and McMinnville.

6/16: Sue (and hopefully Gene) Nesbitt re: the REAL Japanese Gardens.

6/20: Heather giving tour of the Community Gardens, 2-4 p.m

6/26: Mac. Garden Club Tour. For this there is a \$5.00 charge, with 30 students maximum.

Community Gardens: Linda Mason reported that the plant sale was going well, and that all raised beds have been rented. Greenhouse space was loaned to Linfield College's "Center for the Northwest," which is a program encouraging gardening for Hispanic families. There is now a wait list (rapidly filling) for people who want raised beds which have yet to be built, but will be. Already this spring the Garden has donated 80 pounds of herbs and greens to YCAP, but a volunteer is needed for the food pantry area. The irrigation system is running well, most of the lines are buried (except Tom's), and everyone is pretty happy.

Plant Sale of 2015: Sylvia emphasized the pressing need to have at least one person who will become knowledgeable about the planning and operations of the plant sale. She suggests someone "shadow" for a year, so that if for some reason she or Linda are

incapacitated there will be someone available who knows what to do. That person would become a co-chair, to ensure continuity. There is a description of what this job entails in the plant sale handbook, and anyone interested in taking on the responsibility should read that description. Sylvia would like the board members to take over the role of finding a candidate, and Tom also plans to publish the same details on the website. There was also a short discussion of whether or not to continue the Sunday portion of the sale, and it was agreed that it would continue. Sunday sales grossed \$2,793. and moved out a quantity of plants, so was worthwhile. It also gave a chance for Master Gardeners to interact with the public very productively and personally.

OMGA update: Carol, Sylvia, and Linda appeared at the OMGA Executive Board Meeting to discuss the issue of legal liability for events, and how that will be covered was discussed. The Big Question is: What is a legal entity (which can take responsibility)?? (No answer yet). There are 3 options: form a corporation (not desirable); each board member doing business as YCMGA (also not desirable); or OMGA dba YCMGA, which is the best option. Per Carol the bylaws would need to be changed. Apparently the problem of liability has come up before at OMGA but it was never addressed until now. Any changes would of course pertain to all chapters in Oregon, and a resolution is needed by January. Carol was thanked for her prodigious research and work regarding the law and how it applies here.

McMinnville Farmers Market is beginning. People have signed up for enough slots for the near future: the on-line sign-up system is working well, and was complimented by a number of members. Of 150 slots for the year, 70 have been filled.

Mentoring 2016: Eileen (and some others) were disappointed in how mentoring went this year. Plans are to meet weekly next year, and Cathy (*always the optimist*) says it will be excellent next year! This year there were huge disruptions with the mentoring staff (such as injuries) which people do not intend to repeat next year.

Scholarships: Terry informed us that there are 7 highly qualified applicants for the scholarships. Every high school in Yamhill County is notified re: these scholarships. Last year each student was awarded \$1000, and we'll be doing the same this year. Problems arise when students are late with the paperwork, so emphasis will be placed on applicants being on time with their paperwork. Linda moved to raise the budget to \$7,000 this year, which was seconded by Pat.

Spring into Gardening is finished for this year, but the first organizational meeting for **2017** will be in June! The event was surprisingly successful: 175 people showed, including more than 20 walk-ins. Last year there were 125 clients, so unfortunately there were not enough materials this year. (Easy to correct for 2017). 50% of attendees were not Master Gardeners, indicating a successful outreach to the community. There were some problems with the lunches: wet sandwiches from the rain, twice as many cheese sandwiches as ordered (and consequently half the needed turkey sandwiches). Terry and Eileen agreed to meet with personnel from "Jimmy John's" restaurant (new to McMinnville). They have a reputation for actually donating food to organizations, and that possibility got some people excited. Overall, the event was markedly successful, and is improving every year.

Twitter: Michael would like to start a YCMGA Twitter site; majority thought that was fine, though many don't know what it is.

OMGA Website did have an incorrect link to YCMGA site, which has been fixed. Cathy suggested we might have a weekly YCMGA email on a specified day of the week, to replace the weeklong torrent of emails we now have. There was no discussion on this.

Audit Report was not valid according to Linda, but a motion was made (and seconded) to accept it as is. In the future OMGA guidelines will be used for the audit reports. A hard copy is kept by the secretary.

Randy submitted his resignation from the board of directors and presidency, due to a desire to spend more time with his family. By default, the president-elect suddenly replaced the president. Someone thought the board should vote on that, which they did. In fact, everyone except Pat seemed very enthusiastic about her promotion. She is concerned about doing the job adequately, and having enough time to do so. The position of president-elect will be left open this year. Details of check-signing will have to be updated, but otherwise only the people in each position will change.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m. by the new leader (Pat).

Donn Callaham, Secretary
