

Yamhill County Master Gardener Association
Minutes
October 12, 2016
Public Works Auditorium

Attendance: Tom Canales, Rita Canales, Tonia Beebe, Alan Wenner, Apryl Garmon, Doris Crimmins, Sylvia Connor, Linda Coakley, Cathy Burdett, Gene Nebitt, Eileen McBride, Lynn Pollock, Pat Fritz, Sue Nesbitt, Anna Ashby.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Pat Fritz, President.

Linda Coakley moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Rita Canales seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Carol Parks, Treasurer, was ill and did not have internet access. The report will be sent later.

Heather Stoven, Yamhill Extension Agent, distributed the OSU Master Gardener Recertification Policy which includes the changes in the recertification requirements. These will be used in the 2016-2017 year. If these requirements result in insufficient help with the Extension Office clinic desk, then they will need to be changed for the 2017-2018 year.

The Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) worked with a lawyer, David Atkins, whose legal specialization is non-profit organizations. As a result of these discussions, Katherine Johnson, OMGA Treasurer, has registered an Assumed Business Name for each Master Gardener Chapter with the Oregon Secretary of State. Yamhill County can be found at the following URL, <http://sos.oregon.gov/business/Pages/find.aspx>. A letter with the relevant information was sent to the president of each Oregon chapter. Carol Parks, YCMGA Treasurer, will schedule a meeting with the attorney for the Yamhill County Fairgrounds to see if this will be sufficient for YCMGA to sign a contract with the Fairgrounds for our annual plant sale. If it is not, then the plant sale can again be hosted as a Fairgrounds event.

Gene Nesbitt, YCMGA Master Gardener of the Year and Lynn Pollack, YCMGA Behind the Scenes recipients were honored. Everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments.

The Propagation committee has worked hard and the greenhouse is full of plants for the sale in April 2017. Doris Crimmins and Sue Nesbitt are taking geranium cuttings for the sale.

The Education Outreach Committee, Rita Canales and Nancy Woodworth, reported that Dr. Linda Hardison from OSU will be presenting information about the Oregon Flora Project at 3 p.m. on October 20, 2016. This would count as 1 hour of continuing education.

At their next meeting on December 6 or 7, 2016 they will begin planning educational and outreach events for 2017. All Master Gardeners are welcome.

The number and location of plant clinics for 2017 was discussed. It is important to schedule carefully so there are not too many clinics on the same day. YCMGA has been invited to have a clinic desk at the Newberg Holiday Fair. It was decided to decline the invitation. Sue Nesbitt will send the response. It was suggested to invite Dave Christy, chairperson for the tours, to participate in the Educational Outreach Committee meetings to avoid conflicting dates. It was decided that the calendar in the Master Gardener office should be the most complete and up to date calendar. Lynn Pollock asked if a calendar button for the online calendar could be put on the office computer.

Alan Wenner reported that this year the McMinnville Community Garden harvested and donated 14,000 of produce to YCAP. They expect to give another 3,000 to 4,000 pounds before November 1, 2016. They have added 38 raised beds, installed 2 accessible beds, added a 10' by 10' garden shed, and greatly improved the appearance and cleanliness of the garden. They also have a 600-square foot poly covered greenhouse.

The community garden location is not good for a successful plant sale. Thus, they are proposing the following: They would grow premium pepper and tomato plants in 1 gallon containers and then sell them at the YCMGA Plant Sale by merging them with the YCMGA inventory. YCMGA would keep all the funds which would help cover the cost of their budget request. They are planning approximately 500 – 600 plants with approximately 20 varieties of peppers and tomatoes each. Their other option would be to sell them at a separate sale held elsewhere. This will be presented as a formal proposal at the YCMGA retreat. Linda Coakley, Plant Sale Chairperson, will schedule a plant sale committee meeting to discuss this.

Rita Canales said there were many requests for basil at the previous YCMGA plant sale. This is difficult to grow in April in an unheated greenhouse.

The Newberg High School greenhouse needs more Master Gardener volunteers or we will be charged for the space that we use.

Thursday, October 11, 2016 will be the last McMinnville Farmer's Market. The online registration worked well this year. Better coordination is needed with the Master Food Preservers. This year they shared the booth; but, sometimes the Food Preservers representatives didn't come as planned.

A decision about continued participation in the Newberg Farmer's Market needs to be made at the YCMGA Retreat. Information is needed from Peter Steadman and Ruth Rogers. Both Wilco and Fred Myers would like to have more Master Gardener clinic desks in their garden departments.

Apryl Garman and Linda Coakley, OMGA Representatives announced that the next OMGA Leadership Forum will be November 4, 2016 in Tillamook. David Adkins, lawyer specializing in non-profits, will be speaking about local chapter bylaws. The second part of the forum will focus on possible topics for the 2017 Leadership Forums.

Tom Canales, Web chairperson, needs someone to back him up on the work involved in maintaining the YCMGA website. The next big project is the Spring Into Gardening registration.

Gene Nesbitt, Spring Into Gardening chairperson, reported that 9 speakers are confirmed. The theme is "Living Healthy Through Gardening. It will be Saturday, March 11, 2017. They are working on getting sponsors and hope to have \$3,000 – 5,000 in donations by December 15, 2016. There will be publicity about the sponsors on all the marketing materials. The registration fees will be: \$15 for students, \$20 for master gardeners, \$25 for the general public. They hope to build on last year's attendance of 170.

Gene Nesbitt reported that 4 Seeds to Supper classes are running – 1 Spanish class and 1 English class in McMinnville and 1 Spanish class and 1 English class in Newberg. The McMinnville class in Spanish is small; but, they decided to hold it with the hope that future classes would be larger. They are getting great support from both communities. They will ask for a budget for the coming year.

Lynn Pollock reported that people have signed up to be mentors for the 2017 class and that 2 people are already registered for the class. They are looking for ideas about how to present information about the volunteer opportunities to the trainees. It was suggested that the chairperson for each group give a 5-minute presentation about the work of their group. They could also create a poster of the activities of their group with a sign-up sheet that includes the name of the chairperson. The posters should be left up for at least 2 weeks.

Another idea was to have a page on the website of all the volunteer opportunities with a link to a registration sheet the trainees and others could complete.

Sue Nesbitt reported that the Scholarship Committee will be meeting soon to get the materials ready for 2017. They would like to have one more member.

Eileen McBride would like to add a section on poisonous plants to the collection. A section of the gardens at Kaiser Health Care in Tualatin is devoted to these plants.

Pat Fritz and Suzanne(?) volunteer to be the Plant Sale apprentices.

The Fall Retreat will be held Saturday, November 12, 2016 in the Public Works Auditorium with a potluck lunch. The day will begin with the Board meeting followed by the planning workshop. Committee chairpersons should be prepared to present the needed information along with their budget requests.

Master Gardener training classes begin January 5, 2017. Two people have already registered.

Anna Ashby no longer has the time to manage the Newberg Community School greenhouse. This is a paid position so it cannot count as volunteer hours. However, it could be a volunteer position and then volunteer hours could be counted. Anna works there January through May. The plants they grow are sold at the YCMGA plant sale. The position has many possibilities for growth. For example, in addition to managing the greenhouse a person could teach classes at the elementary schools, there could be a garden, etc.

As another idea, it was suggested that we might provide a budget item to help teachers get the necessary materials to offer a plant growing activity. A chairperson would be needed for this.

Anna Ashby moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Sue Nesbitt filling in for Don Callahan