

YCMGA Board Meeting Minutes

March 13th 2019

The President called the meeting to order at 10:02 am, on 3/13/19

IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Mason	Sue Nesbitt	Donn Callahan
Cathy Burdett	Polly Blum	Terry Hart
Gail Price	Susanne Beukema	Carol Parks
Rita Canales	Linda Cookley	

Secretary's notes for December: Susanne motioned approval, Carol seconded, all voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Reports have been sent out. There are presently 153 attendees for "Spring into Gardening", though that includes sponsors, volunteers, and all others. 60 of these are Master Gardeners. There are 86 Master Gardeners who have renewed their membership for 2019.

Heather-in-absentia report: We were reminded that the end-of-classes MG potluck will be at noon on the very last day of class—March 21st. The Plant Sale will be promoted during that time.

Announcements/Correspondence: There were no announcements, and no one has communicated with us.

Education/Outreach Committee: The big news is the list of new classes at the Community Garden. They will be listed and described again in the *Grapevine* and on our website. There will be a tour of Miller Woods on April 18th. It will be a guided tour by Sonia the caretaker, limited to 20 to 25 participants. People will leave from the extension office at 9:45 for the tour at 10:30: there is abundant parking at Miller Woods. People asked for directions, but since Polly doesn't know how to get there, she felt her giving directions to the place would be anti-helpful. Two plant clinics are planned; one on April 6th and one on April 18th, and the next meeting of this committee will be on April 3rd.

McMinnville Community Garden: Seasonal orientation for the garden will on March 30th, though attendance is full. A representative of the Oregon Food Bank will speak, and possibly a representative from MV Advancements (formerly Mid-Valley Workshop). They will bring a busload of clients. On April 6th the Garden will officially open, will new rules planned. (See February notes for details and reasons). Re: the water supply, a well-driller inspected the well, and found that the well itself is functional. However, the pump should

be replaced by a *smaller* model, as the current pump is oversized for the well output. However, planting from now on will still emphasize water-efficient plants.

OMGA representatives: Sue Nesbitt reported that the leadership forum last time was supposed to be themed "Diversity." However, the concept of "cultural agility" was the focus. Cultural agility is described as the feeling by individuals that "everyone knows but me." The OMGA survey results are in: 55 out of 88 were completed. Of those surveyed:

50% have had a leadership (not defined) role.

83% had no idea what the Karl Karlson award is.

73% had no idea what the "Search for Excellence" award is for nor how it is applied for.

People stated that the primary purpose of OMGA is to help educate the public, and support the county chapters.

The value of Mini-college was rated at 3.5 (out of 5).

50% of members have taken one or more webinars.

The conclusion was that OMGA does a poor job of communicating with chapters. Many MG's get their information via email, but that goes only to a select few. The newsletter (*Gardeners' s Pen*) is not read by many. Communication by the representatives is critical.

Extension Educator Grants need to be clarified. They are used for a project which is written up by a Master Gardener, but the Extension Agent must want it also and it must relate to the goal of Public Education. \$4,000 was budgeted for it with a maximum of \$500 each chapter. These are the projects awarded last year: new demo. garden features; soil and water testing kits; the bee project; a laptop; seed money for building an outdoor classroom; texts and references for a juvenile correction facility. Interestingly, there are more applications from Yamhill county MG's than from any other Oregon county.

Web & Publicity: Since all SIG work has been completed, focus is now on the Plant Sale. 150 more posters are being printed as we speak. The new website is under construction with the first prototype due to be produced before the Plant Sale. The list of Master Gardeners on the website will be completely updated: Tom will remove all dead and inactive members. He claimed to have checked with all the "old-timers" on this, which made him an object of some light-

hearted hostility. He tried in vain to word this more delicately, but on the whole he failed to ingratiate himself.

Seed to Supper: Classes began last week, with 22 people signed up for classes in English, though as yet the classes in Spanish are unworkably small. Three more classes will begin next week; for now the Sheridan class is postponed until there is higher enrollment. Hope is to have about 60 students, and to be fully organized and displaying improved recruitment by fall. As YCAP is no longer the major sponsor, Church on the Hill was suggested. Gene would like to have Agent Heather be the backbone of the project. There is no word yet from her on that “offer.”

Mentoring Committee: The focus now is on the MG students working on the MG desk; the students should be building a display for the Plant Sale. Sign-ups for working the desk for the rest of this year are open, with everyone being invited to do so on a Monkey survey. In time the committee will take the survey answers and make a schedule.

Scholarship Committee: Sue Nesbitt will be picking up finished applications, with a deadline of the last Friday in April.

SIG review: SIG is now in the past tense: results will be publicized next month. To date 153 people were signed up, including the paid ones, though it could rise to 200. Gene is in charge of opening the Community Center, which he believes is the first thing on his “to-do” list. However, he seems to have misplaced the list, so several people said they would remind him, as long as someone reminded *them*. Carol and Becky will be chairs for SIG in 2020.

Plant Sale Committee/Perennial Propagation: The tension is rising in this group, as they doggedly try to get everything ready and organized. Plugs have been received and transplanted. Labelling will be done by the end of March, pricing will be done by the third week in April, and plant purchases from Peoria will also be completed by then. There has been excellent turnout by the new class. The unusually cold weather is a concern for finishing plants to size, but Patti has fertilized and will continue to do so every other week until the sale.

Policies and Procedures: Things are going relatively well, though the group is hesitant about being en-

thusiastic. Some committee chairs and officers have submitted complete information, while some have submitted nothing. Tom is contacting the holdouts individually, and trying to solve various personal problems with various folk, such as not being willing to use any passwords, and accessing on various computers. All is slowly being installed in “Box.” Tom is still requesting the help of 2 persons in obtaining and organizing the information.

Reorganization of Fairground Demonstration Gardens: A new leader is still needed! To reiterate: the leader(s) would not have to do the planning nor physical work, but rather would be in charge of the overall operation of the gardens (scheduling, procurement, irrigation, etc.) Go to the Marion County website for excellent ideas on how to organize a garden, and reading the YCMGA job description could do wonders answering questions about the responsibilities.

New Business:

#1) A request was received from **Cascade Steel** to have MG’s “oversee” the planning and construction of a new entry for the mill, featuring native plants. The promise was made that MG’s would not be expected to do any actual physical work, but still there was not enough information on the project to make a decision. Rita will contact the mill personnel and get more details about the project.

#2) The **National 4H Conference** wants YCMGA to donate money and become a sponsor of the organization. There was some discussion and the *informal approximate* consensus was that we do not want to contribute to the whole state organization, but would probably be willing to help finance a Yamhill County student attending the conference. Carol will discuss the viability of this option with Mike Knutz, our county 4H coordinator.

#3) Polly firmly wants to desist from being the “Sunshine Lady,” but happily Polly volunteered to take that over *as soon as she is retired from Hospitality*.

#4) A few people from propagation have gone to the NWREC twice to help with cuttings and “upshifting.” There will be a third opportunity, timing to be arranged.

Adjournment was motioned by Rita, and within several brief seconds Rita struck her hammer on the table and declared the meeting ended at 12:04pm.