

YCMGA Board Meeting

September 09, 2020

IN VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:

<i>Carol Parks</i>	<i>Susanne Beukema</i>	<i>Polly Blum</i>
<i>Donn Callaham</i>	<i>Pat Fritz</i>	<i>Heather Stoven</i>
<i>Marilyn McGregor</i>	<i>Gin Galt</i>	<i>Terry Hart</i>
<i>Linda Mason</i>	<i>Sue Nesbitt</i>	<i>Kelly Moser</i>
<i>Rita Canales</i>	<i>Amy Curtis</i>	<i>Nancy Woodworth</i>
<i>Linda Coakley</i>	<i>Gene Nesbitt</i>	

Susanne Beukema called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. This meeting was teleconferenced because of the continuing requirements regarding the coronavirus.

Secretary's minutes for March: Linda motioned acceptance; Polly seconded.

Treasurer's Report: The reports have been emailed to board members, as usual. It was noted that the position of "historian" is in the budget, but one does not exist. This will be dealt with in the future.

Heather report: Heather reviewed the information she has already sent to all Master Gardeners re: the new plans for 2021 training. There will be no new trainees, and training for existing MG's will be focused on attitudes (such as inclusion, racism, etc.) and perhaps alternative plant sales. Unfortunately, horticultural classes will be the lowest priority. The changes will be statewide. Also, a couple of people have completed the "alternative problems" lessons for earning hours.

Community Garden: Volunteers are heavily involved in production and harvest for YCAP only, and have harvested 11,000 pounds of produce this year. When it is smokey, no one works... It's been difficult to get help, the group of volunteers is small, and some of them are actually picky regarding what they do and do not pick. Of course there are no educational events in the offing.

Plant sale Committee has lost Susanne, but gained Gin. All ideas for a replacement for the annual sale are being considered. We could use an outdoor pavilion at the fairgrounds. Online is possible but apparently a great deal of work. Though some people thought online prohibitively expensive, Sue mentioned a site

called "auctria.com (used by Newberg High) costing just \$110 for 2 sales, so cost is not an object. Online would, however, mandate a complete reinvention of the sale; challenges would be photos, delivery, having a limited crew, online listing, running inventory.

Gene suggested contacting the organizations to whom we gave our plants last year, to try to work out arrangements where they would sell the plants and YCMGA would get some of the proceeds this year. Gene stated that it is probably too late this year to organize with private 3rd-party vendors, but the committee wants to discuss that action. We wouldn't want to compete with a commercial enterprise's inventory, so would have to engage with some store which normally never deals in plants. The logistics of all that appear to preclude doing it. It was also suggested that we grow substantially less plants and of less variety this year.

Perennial Propagation: Work has been going on every Tuesday and Friday, but is now Tuesdays only. Cuttings have been taken and started all summer, and are now being up-potted to 4" pots. Water outages have been unpredictable and numerous all summer: right now the whole area is served by one garden hose stoically trying to survive across a parking lot. Marilyn is the organizer, all volunteers are officially approved for Covid experiences, and all are behaving well in this virus-bound environment.

Demonstration Garden: The demo garden is actually looking remarkably well due to the steady care from some volunteers, particularly Cynthia and Jennifer, who water every day. Plans are under way to upgrade the plantings in the Wiser "pavilion," which now are seriously overgrown and boring in their selection. They are drought-tolerant plants who are being put to the survival test by being deprived of water completely this year.

Awards for OMGA will be celebrated during the week of 10-26 to 10-30. Awards will still be given this year, plus there will be some agriculturally-themed films and videos online. Heather will put together a show for YCMGA during which chapter awards will be given to active members in a night-time performance. The committee is using member hour records from Carla, contact lists, and other information to assign awards. (And yes, the Community Garden and propagation) volunteers are certainly includ-

ed). This year awards will be financed by using funds allocated but not used this year, including money saved from having cancelled events. There is a need for some activities to ameliorate the event; ideas are plant trivia, plant jeopardy, or???

Education/Outreach volunteers are bravely trying to invent activities which will attract and involve Master Gardeners, and perhaps even the public. Rita has placed more information on Facebook, including the insect committee's newsletter. About 50 people have looked at the site, and several even liked it! The committee plans to glean past *Grapevine* issues for articles of interest to the general public, and post those. Gene suggested using the "Spring-Into-Gardening" attendee list as a focus for articles to post.

Greenhouse: Some potting soil was placed in the greenhouse, and Tom and other volunteers built a temporary soil bin outside it. For now the bin will have just 3 sides and no top, and be covered year-round by a tarp (which, hopefully, won't be blue).

OMGA: Earlier this week Polly wrote up a review of all the activities of YCMGA for the months of July, August, and September. She sent that to members, and it will be online and in the October *Grapevine*.

Mentor Committee: Mentors have been trying to get 2020 students involved with YCMGA, with very minimal success. Mentors urged students to participate in the online intakes, but only 3 did. There is some hope that Gail Langelotto's various new activities might be useful in re-engaging some of the 2020 trainees.

Spring-into-Gardening committee will meet on 9-26, to decide whether or not the event will even take place. If they decide it will, they will then work on hammering out the forms it could possibly take.

Nominating Committee: For 2021 the Secretary and Treasurer are willing to stay the same, with Amy Curtis training under Carol to become Treasurer next year. (competition for these positions is still encouraged). Polly has volunteered to be the OMGA representative, Tom will be the alternate, and 3 people have volunteered to be member-at-large. They are Kelly Moser, Becky Karver, and Tonia Beebe. Since only 2 people may occupy this position, a battle among the 3 will inevitably occur.

No one has volunteered to be President-elect: we need one!

Resource Manual: Since there will be no trainees next year, the resource manual will need minimal changes this year. The committee is waiting to learn about changes Gail Langelotto will make to the Master Gardener program, before doing anything with the manual.

New Business: The annual budget meeting will be held on October 17th beginning at 9am. It will involve a live Excel spreadsheet on the budget to allow everyone to participate. Carol asks committee chairs to check their budget and make all plans for updating it by no later than October 09. This information must be sent to Carol by then. There will be a Powerpoint covering all budget information. Since this event used to be the big social event of the year for YCMGA, someone suggested we have a virtual pot-luck, where each of us could watch everyone else eat the food we couldn't have.

Carol motioned to end the meeting, Gin seconded, and the meeting terminated at 11:16 am.

