

IN VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <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>Lisa Patterson</i> |
| <i>Rita Canales</i> | <i>Amy Curtis</i> | <i>Nancy Woodworth</i> |
| <i>Linda Coakley</i> | <i>Gene Nesbitt</i> | <i>Tom Canales</i> |
| <i>Gail Stoltz</i> | <i>Gloria Lutz</i> | <i>Marlena Bertram</i> |
| <i>Kelly Moser</i> | <i>Marilyn McGregor</i> | |

Susanne Beukema called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. This meeting was teleconferenced because of the continuing requirements regarding the coronavirus.

Secretary's minutes for September: Donn motioned acceptance; Gin seconded.

Treasurer's Report: The reports have been emailed to board members, as usual. We now have approximately \$37,000 available as non-dedicated funds.

Heather report: Policy re: pandemic behavior by Master Gardeners is on hold at OSU at present, with weekly meetings being held by OSU to think about the situation.

Education/Outreach: Heather will teach a class on winter-flowering plants this winter, probably November 9th or 16th. Heather's "Stump the Expert" questions had low participation, but activities for the trainees were more successful. The "Coffee-meetings" have been quite successful, with over a dozen people participating. The committee will be sending a survey to all YCMGA members, asking for input re: activities (both existing, and ideas for new ones). Nancy collected some articles from the *Grapevine* to be published for public consumption on our website.

Both members of the committee are becoming burnt out trying to create new activities within the limits of virus restrictions, so they are asking for HELP! They have been relentless in the pursuit of their mission, but need new energy and ideas. Gene came up with a significant number of involved proposals for new activities, but now someone is needed to actually *do* them.

McMinnville Community Garden has delivered 13,091 pounds of produce to YCAP this year, and is still doing so. They are establishing plants for next year, and have yet to harvest butternut squash. They had organizations bid on a large pumpkin, and raised \$270 with that effort! (The rest of the pumpkin crop went to YCAP, which appreciated them).

OMGA: The OMGA is still seeking 2 people: one to be president-elect, and the other to produce the *Gardener's Pen*. (Actually, one person could do both, but such a thing has never happened). Virtual mini-college will be held July 15 through 17, and the next quarterly meeting on 11/06. Master Gardener "acknowledgement week" is coming up, consisting of various daily online activities. Awards are also to be given during this week. MG's must sign up to participate in this week of activities, and should do so asap. An invitation has been sent to all members, and they should respond immediately if they want to attend.

Mentoring Committee is basically hibernating right now. Carla shares what intakes there are with MG's, and it is hoped that mentors will share these with their 2020 students, and encourage the students to participate in the "Master Gardener Acknowledgment" week events.

Spring into Gardening will of course be virtual only this year. It will take place after the MG classes from OSU, and it will be presented on the 4 Saturdays of April. Master Gardeners will need to have their own Zoom accounts to facilitate this, which Tom will administer. (There is less security on a single OSU Zoom account). YCMGA will pay the cost of the individual licensing, and Tom will talk with a Zoom representative to prevent problems. "Handouts" will be available free to the general public on the OMGA website. Right now organizers are checking with other chapters to make sure there is minimal duplication of topics, but we need to complete this quickly before there *are* no speakers available. Rita will complete this by 12/15, and will prioritize lecture subjects by their past popularity among MG's.

Greenhouse: Over the past few weeks YCMGA members have been confused by various ongoing emails as to whether or

not benches were being supplied, and whether or not YCMGA should pay for them if they were. An acrimonious potential issue was solved by Susanne regarding procurement of benches.

Susanne sorted this out by preparing and presenting a thorough history of the decisions made re: benches, and a detailed spreadsheet on the cost of the benches. (It turns out that some members had gone ahead and had new benches constructed without the knowledge of the board). The final decision was that costs would be reimbursed, including previous donations. Almost all the benches have been built (by Jeff Fahey) and all will be done by the end of the year. For all the details, see "Addendum A" at the end of these notes.

Perennial Propagation: Up-potting has been completed, with finished product being stored in the greenhouse and Wiser Pavilion. Old benches are being kept for the time being, until the new are finished.

Plant Sale Committee: Most recent meeting was held in October: focus now is on the details of a tentative online plant sale.

Demonstration Garden: A crew is working on the garden every Wednesday, and the entire area is looking very nicely. On 10/28 some Master Gardeners will dig out and dispose of a number of large but misplaced plants (mostly mammoth bushes and trees). As is so often the case, plantings were totally inappropriate as to size of plant in the space, and as to light requirements. So the Pavilion area will be cleaned out, then planted with perennial native, drought-tolerant pollinator, and Pacific Northwest gardens. Plants will now be grouped by water and light needs, simplifying upkeep and being more informative for the public.

Awards: All the 2020 award plaques have been engraved, and will be handed out at the November 2nd Zoom presentation (from 6pm to 7pm). Input is requested as to 2021 meeting dates and times (on Zoom). Lisa, a new and decidedly younger-than-MG-average new member, was introduced. She suggested the meetings begin at 9am instead of 10am, and attendees concurred. Thus board meetings will begin at 9am in 2021.

Nominations: Voting is taking place as this is written. The only voting necessary is for member-at-large, for which Becky, Tonia, and Kelly have applied. Ballots have been sent to

membership by email. Since Linda won't be OMGA rep. Polly is now stuck with Tom as her associate. People wished her well.

This part of the meeting ended at 10:25am.

2021 ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

Welcome by Susanne consisted of an outline of objectives for 2021. They are **Embrace** (new ideas), **Adapt** (to new ideas), **Engage** (the community), **Promote** (the Master Gardener organization), and **Advance** (meaning to try new things). People are needed to make a promotional "Powerpoint" with videos in January or February. A committee of up to 10 people is desired.

Garden-to-Table: There may be virtual mentoring, but no physical contact. Gene expressed his frustration with the approach by OSU to MG interactions, in that every move must be approved, but only a few days in advance of the behavior. Other members pointed out that the program should go ahead with what it is already permitted to do, and not get stalled by a possible change in future plans. The emphasis needs to be *to do what we can now*, now worry about what we may not be able to do in the future. Rather than focusing on the difficulties we now face (because of Covid) we would be much better off trying to maximize current opportunities.

Heather pointed out that the program already has permission from OSU and the fairgrounds to build and maintain demonstration vegetable beds at the fairgrounds, and that this should be done before planning more programs in other towns in Oregon.

The grant from Yamhill Community Care Organization has been extended until later in 2021, so we should utilize that as quickly as possible. The focus on food-insecure families won't take place this year because of lessened ability to contact and involve them. So instead the program will try to get all types of community members involved, and hopefully later in the year the focus can go back to food-insecure clients. One of the problems for the desired clients is that many do not have access to adequate internet to be able to participate in Zoom meetings..

An online course is being prepared, with no physical mentoring happening.

Volunteers might be needed in the future to:

- Be instructors
- Prepare the online courses
- Build and deliver raised beds
- Plan and maintain demonstration beds
- Work on publicity
- Be mentors.

Contact glutz@onlinemac or ghderm@gmail.com. if interested. This is dependent on the program being enlarged, and then on the normalization of public interactions re: Covid.

This committee does not need any help for the winter program. Again, YCMGA members and Heather emphasized that right now the goal should be to *not* expand, but rather to *survive*. We should limit activities to McMinnville, keep it small, and use what we learn for future improvements.

Demonstration Garden Renovation: Phase one, the rose garden, is completed. There is a new arbor, a new gravel path, and many new rose cultivars. There is signage planned (for a total of 3 signs). One old rose left behind a root which refused to die, and no one had the heart to remove it so there will be still one old-style rose in the garden.

Phase two will be a drought-tolerant pollinator garden. The project will begin with cleanup and removal of some poorly-placed shrubs, then grouping of new plants by water needs.

Phase three will be in the Wiser Pavilion. Many overgrown shrubs will be removed, the arbor and bench under the now-defunct jasmine will be replaced, and an old water feature will be refurbished and put back into operation. Plants will be sorted by sunlight needs, and a woodland garden will be featured. The bike display will be relocated, and the drip irrigation system removed and a new one installed.

Annual Propagation: In mid-January the committee will make decisions as to what seeds to buy (if any), and they will soon place an order for starts. They are considering dropping the budget to \$750.

Perennial Propagation: Because Newberg High school has suspended its horticulture program, we will no longer have access to a heated greenhouse. So we are discontinuing some fragile plants, limiting quantities to 2 flats of any one plant, and expecting losses this winter due to cold. However, there are plenty of plants left from 2020. Staffing is adequate, though some participants have disappeared. Recruiting will begin in

2021.

Community Garden: Though few people are actively participating, the garden is still supplying produce to YCAP. One of the valuable attributes of the produce supplied by the Community Garden is that it is distribution-ready. (Other suppliers often donate product that needs cleaning, sorting, etc.). Help is adequate at the moment.

Continuing Education: Classes are now being planned by OSU with a "skills" set (interpersonal and social interaction skills) and a horticultural set. (A survey has been sent to all MG's). Classes have been moved from January through March, to February through April. Recertification requirements are planned to be reinstated in 2022.

Plant Sale: Shopify software will be used, at a cost of only \$30 per month. There will be fewer plants this year, but costs are also down. Hopes are to sell 75% of the inventory this year, but this year there will be no berries of any kind. Everything is tentative because OSU will not approve the sale until one month before it is supposed to begin. The current plans are to have plant pickup by appointment, at Wiser Pavilion, and all orders to be prepaid.

Other fund-raising ideas: We discussed selling plants at Farmers' Markets, but if we did so the booth cost would rise dramatically (and it is already \$550 for a nonprofit). Silent auctions are a possibility, as are raffles. We could also sell items such as t-shirts, tote bags, and our exclusive plant stands. The Community Garden has had success with a silent auction and wine tasting event, and we could beg for sponsors. Crowdfunding was suggested, and the idea of "Rent-a-Master-Gardener" was quickly quashed. OMGA donated many plants in 2020 to two wineries: perhaps they would be sponsors or event partners. We need to form a committee to explore ways to raise funds.

Proposed Budget: Amy presented a proposed budget, which was analyzed line by line by Carol. A complete copy of the new proposed budget is attached as Addendum B. It's important to note that the budget is submitted to *all* YCMGA members for them to suggest any changes. On November 11 the board will approve a final budget, so all suggestions must be received before then.

The following budget changes have been proposed.

INCOME

- Member dues from \$1400 to \$1000.
- Plant sale from \$28,000 to \$13,000.
- Spring into Gardening from \$8000 to zero.

EXPENSES:

- Management from \$100 to \$50.
- Incorporation from \$400 to \$300.
- Demo. Garden from \$3000 to \$2500.
- Grow Alley from \$500 to \$250.
- Hospitality from \$1000 to \$500.
- Insurance from \$1500 to \$1200.
- Mini-college scholarships from \$1600 to \$800.
- MG aprons from \$100 to \$0.
- OMGA memberships from \$800 to \$420.
- PayPal fees from \$100 to \$50.

PLANT SALE

- Building Rental from \$1300 to \$250.
- Card authorization fee from \$500 to \$350.
- Community garden from \$3000 to \$500.
- Labels and stakes from \$450 to \$200.
- Office supplies from \$200 to \$100.
- Plastic containers from \$800 to \$780.
- Potting media from \$2000 to \$1600.
- Publicity from \$800 to \$600.
- Purchased perennials from \$5000 to \$1500.
- Seeds and plugs from \$1000 to \$750.

PROGRAMS

- Educational Outreach from \$500 to \$250.
- Garden to Table from \$3000 to \$1250.
- Herbarium from \$400 to \$100.
- Mentoring from \$700 to \$0.

SCHOLARSHIPS & EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

- 4H Fair Ambassadors from \$500 to \$250.
- College Scholarships from \$2000 to \$5000.
- MHS Scholarships from \$6000 to \$1000.
- MG class scholarships from \$360 to \$0.

SPRING-INTO-GARDENING

- Attendee handouts from \$300 to \$0.
- Decorations from \$300 to \$0.
- Facility rental from \$1700 to \$0.
- Lunches from \$1300 to \$0.
- Miscellaneous from \$900 to \$200.
- Speakers' fees from \$1600 to \$400.
- "Square" fees from \$5. to \$0.

Carol will happily answer all budget questions from YCMGA members. It was promised that there will be no ballot tracking, and no voting guards posted.

Virtual Socialization (an oxymoron if ever there were one): Ideas are needed for non-educational light interactions, such as the "coffee times" by Education & Outreach committee.

Amy motioned to end the meeting, Polly seconded the motion, and the meeting concluded at 2:30pm.



Agapostemon viriscens, a solitary bee