

IN VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:

Carol Parks	<b>Susanne Beukema</b>	<b>Donn Callaham</b>
Marilyn McGregor	Gin Galt	Pat Fritz
Linda Mason	<b>Rita Canales</b>	<b>Amy Curtis</b>
<b>Gail Stoltz</b>	Marilyn McGregor	Terry Hart
Lisa Patterson	Sue Nesbitt	Tonia Beebe
<b>Tom Canales</b>	Heather Stoven	Marlena Bertram
Linda Coakley		

**After all of us comparing notes on the status of COVID19 vaccine, Susanne Beukema called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. This meeting was teleconferenced because of the continuing requirements regarding the coronavirus.**

**S**ecretary's minutes for December: Tom motioned acceptance; Amy seconded.

**T**reasurer's Report

- Restricted Save: \$10,377.16, Checking: \$1,317.15, Savings: \$31,865
- Amy received a check from Vicki Johnson for \$100 to be applied to scholarships in memory of Margaret Ann Peterson with a nice note. Amy has written her a thank-you note and sent her the page from the Grapevine about Margaret with it.
- Amy received Jeff Fahey's check request for the benches. The total requested was \$1364. This amount was included in the 2020 Greenhouse Budget line item; however, Jeff had not finalized the total amount for reimbursement until last month when the project was complete. Therefore, it was necessary to vote to approve the expenditure since there was over the budget line item for 2021. The board had to approve the expenditure, but she had already sent him a check. Had it not been approved, she would have had to become a collection agency for the amount.
- Amy has started doing a mobile deposit of the checks that she receives, vs. going to the First Federal branch. She has now sent checks for 6 of the 7 scholarships: we still have not heard from the last student despite multiple attempts by Sue make

contact with them.

**P**resident-elect reminded everyone that the deadline for nominating people for OMGA awards is May 15th. Deadline is the same for applications for OMGA grants.

**H**eather Report: If someone has a need to physically enter the Extension Office (such as for storing items) they are to contact Carla and make an appointment. For the moment Heather is doing any soil tests, and will soon be beseeching OSU for permission to have the plant sale. Marilyn was suddenly frozen in time, so we ignored her attempted comments.

**E**ducation/Outreach is full of hope, but doing very little. The Lavender Festival will apparently take place this July, smaller and with an outdoors venue. We may also be able to do the casino landscaping tour this fall. We will participate in the second session of the Mac Farmers' Market if allowed to by OSU attorneys.

Yet once again Rita will send the results of her interests survey to committee chairs; Carla has sent every committee chair a list of MG's who have passed all the OSU "safety" tests. Finally, there may be a for-a-fee class at the demonstration garden this summer.

**M**innville Community Garden is following unchanged requirements re: virus control, and has the same clients for raised beds as last year. Most of their work is being done to supply YCAP.

**O**MGA: SUBMISSIONS FOR AWARDS AND GRANTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 15TH! For details on Mini-college, just see the last 2 editions of the *Grapevine*. (Remember, you can always access them on the YCMGA website). OMGA wants a tally of paid members including life members, but not the locals. For the silent auction and "Send a Friend", the only items accepted will be those which are mailable (not in boxes). (Rita emphasized that this means: "Don't make potting tables for prizes!")

**G**arden to Table is registering people for a second session, with 6 registered and a goal of 25. The last class had 10 members. Classes will be for 6 weeks beginning in April, including the last one which will be food preservation. Since "Seed-to-Supper" has now become part of the Extension program, we can now use their materials (after just completing creating all our own).

**W**eb/Publicity: More volunteers are needed for SIG, including moderators who will field question-and-answer sessions on Zoom. The idea of a chat room was strongly condemned as a needless and pointless distraction. As someone pointed out, it would be a healthy practice for people to learn to just keep their comments to themselves.

**S**pring into Gardening: There are only 40 people signed up so far, so it appears the goal of 100 will not be attained. Otherwise planning is complete, and flyers will soon be distributed.

**P**erennial Propagation: Two emergency work sessions were immediately planned to empty the greenhouse. The committee was notified for the first time of this need, (much to their surprise) during the board meeting, with multiple prompts to clean out the greenhouse immediately of all perennial plant material. They as yet do not know which plants will be salable on time, or which will die. All the labels are finished, however.

**A**nnual Propagation Committee is now picking up the order from a local nursery, and kale and tomatoes have been seeded. Linda informed the perennial propagation committee that she wants the greenhouse empty of perennials RIGHT NOW.

**P**lant Sale: Shopify is being loaded, though there is still a paucity of plant photos. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month the crew will do a mock-up of the sale, and design a "store" to organize for pick-up. Germination to cropping time will be added to the plant tags. The Peoria order is coming, but unfortunately the cost of our \$3.00 retail plants, will be \$3.00 net, so prices will have to be adjusted. There will be 6 dates for pick-up with 10-minute appointments, based on a successful program run in another county.

**D**emonstration Garden is getting started. Sue expressed horror at the tenacity of the Italian arum, which ostensibly had been all dug out last fall. She will learn great respect for and fear of this plant during

coming years.

**A**wards Committee will meet to discuss nominations for YCMGA for "Behind-the-Scenes" and "MG of the year" awards. This information will be shared with OMGA, and the winners will be announced at Mini-College along with all the local chapter winners. The committee is working on how to make the affair as festive as possible under current limits, and how to notify winners. Hope is that by the end of the year we may have in-person meetings, and be able to announce the winners as we always have. There will also be plaques made to attach to greenhouse benches for those individuals who donated benches.

**F**undraising: Activities at the demonstration garden may be offered, but are not enough in and of themselves. We should not try to replicate a commercial nursery (as we are now) and instead perhaps ought to buy the plants to resell. Perhaps too we should cut back on the sale, making enough to just cover YCMGA expenses.

**S**cholarships are mostly on hold, as we do not know how many applications we will receive this year. We plan for only 2 in 2021.

**H**ospitality: We will practice being hospitable in the fall: there is no point in doing so now.

**C**ommittee Chair Tenure: Susanne planted the seed that changes may need to be made. There are some committee members who do not participate, putting much more of a load on the ones who do take responsibility. We need to make the expectation of real participation very clear; though one-on-one discussion with the perpetrators would be ideal, people just don't do that. Again, there are heavy rumblings of discontent, but we decided not to change everything "in the heat of battle": make no changes now. As a final note, Tom agreed to update the by-laws on our website, though they are already complete in the online manual.

Donn motioned that we all need to get outside asap. Rita seconded, and we did just that at 10:55 am.

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