

IN VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:

Susanne Beukema	Donn Callaham	Pat Fritz
Rita Canales	Amy Curtis	Linda Mason
Terry Hart	Sue Nesbitt	Tom Canales
Heather Stoven	Marlena Bertram	Gin Galt
Kelly Moser	Gene Nesbitt	Linda Coakley
Carol Parks	Candace Van Zanten	Barb Gentry
Gail Stoltz	Kim Martin	Beth LaForce
Carla Stables	Polly Blum	

Susanne Beukema called the meeting to order at 9:01 am. This meeting was teleconferenced because of the continuing requirements regarding the coronavirus.

Secretary's minutes for June: Polly motioned acceptance; Gin seconded.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer received a Newberg Farmer's market payment request. We didn't have any money budgeted for the Newberg Farmer's Market this year. The bill is for \$75 and the plan was for OSU to pay for it originally, but the market is requesting us to pay for it because it takes too long to get OSU to cut a check? **Everyone okay with Treasurer paying, so will go ahead and do so.**

There was some confusion on whether we officially voted to move money from publicity to purchased perennials. It was officially moved this month.

The new check request forms are online (thanks Tom!). Gin and Susanne have tried them out and hopefully any issues are worked out. There is one for printing out and filling out, and one for filling out online. Our Treasurer has had no luck getting anyone from the state to help her get our name changed despite trying for a couple of months. She is resigned to leave our name as it is. **We decide to wait and update it LATER!**

Heather Report: the number of Master Gardeners recertifying for 2021 is distinctly down from previous years. Last year we had 84 people recertify, and this year it is 35! Therefore we need to revisit the idea of downsizing our activities, since about only 20 YCMGA members are doing all the work.

Class registration is now open for next year, with classes being limited to 20 to 25 students. Current Master Gardeners are encouraged to try to bring in more people who have expressed an interest, to be students. The new class schedule is now posted, with the first class beginning in February, rather than January as usual. Lectures will all be online, but with a hands-on class every Thursday afternoon. Carla has a list of MG drop-outs, and it would be nice for someone to contact each of them personally to hear

"This is a fun online adventure!!"

One person again advocated for trying for a maximum quantity of people, versus quality of the program. We nearly all agreed that this is a terrible time to focus on mere quantity, that we must focus on the quality of the program until it is "re-established."

In 2022 there will be no price differential for students who volunteer versus who want just the course without volunteering.

Education/outreach: The clinic at "Harvest Fest" was not of value, as attendance was very sparse and there was no interest in gardening advice. However, the Millers' Woods clinic was active and successful, and the Farmers' Market McMinnville received a great deal of interest. The desire (dream, if you will) is to do more clinics in 2022, but we do not have enough MG's volunteering to do even what we now have scheduled.

OMGA Reps: At the moment Oregon State University is completely focused on the diversity issue, and requiring local chapters to do likewise. To date no feasible ideas have been offered as to what the chapters can actually do *to significantly*

increase diversity. We all know that the organization is comprised of old white women, a result of the volunteerism expected, hours available, and peoples' interests.

OMGA representatives are now Nancy Woodworth with Gail Stoltz as alternate.

Web and publicity: Tom is again pleading for members to look at the web site, and offer suggestions for improvement. If people have any problems navigating it, they should ask him for help. He also pointed out that he keeps a list of who accesses the web site, and another of anyone who *never* has. Keep in mind that Tom knows who you are, non-participants!

Mentoring Committee: Training for mentors will begin in January. At the moment there are enough mentors signed up, but substitutes will be accepted.

Spring-into-Gardening now has Rita as a co-chair.

Perennial Propagation group has finished potting the cuttings made this fall. The greenhouse is full, though they did much less propagation this year than they traditionally do. There are 8 to 12 participants each session, and a number of new members each time. Work sessions are now only 2 hours (versus the previous 3).

Annual Propagation: Seeding is on schedule. New plant tables have been installed, and then later were ground down and painted more permanently to prevent rust. Burpee seed have a significantly higher germination rate than other brands, so will be purchased. More heating mats are needed for tomatoes and peppers. Some plants will be seeded directly, and there will be a focus on the barrel plantings.

Field trips: The excursion to Independence, Oregon, to view the Marion County Master Gardens was an excellent lesson in possibilities, and humility. There is a detailed description of the trip in the current *Grapevine* issue, along with several pages of

photos.

Resource Manual Update will require a number of changes this year, particularly if we have to cut committees or projects. Tom again is beseeching us to help him by supplying information and doing so on time.

Committee Chair Vacancies: We need:

- *Web/publicity*
- *Education/outreach*
- *OMGA representatives*
- *Perennial Propagation*
- *Garden-to-Table (co-chair, as Tonia's gone)*

Insect Committee has been active through the pandemic. Gin puts out an interesting newsletter, insect information and photos are being traded about, and invertebrate intakes are being processed.

YCMGA Annual Planning Meeting

October 20, 2021

Meeting commenced at 10:15 a.m.

We began the meeting experiencing major technical difficulties with the slide presentation to get to full screen, with a continuous onslaught of members giving their advice.

Susanne began with the reiteration of the current Master Gardener mantra of "RE..."

REFLECT—RENEW—REORGANIZE—REENGAGE—REVAMP—RECONNECT—REDO along with another dozen or so words with the same prefix. In case anyone missed it, the theme is "RE..." which means to "do over".

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING SESSION

Garden-to-Table: A pilot program will begin with 9 participants. There will be 2 classes, both in English. In past classes, from March through April there were 38 participants watching recorded zoom classes. There were 6 instructors and 20 participants this summer, with only 3 reporting the experience as "poor." The rest reported "fair" to "excellent." About 50% were low-income, a group on which we focus.

Three Master Gardeners from Newberg participated in McMinnville, with the possibility of having some classes in Newberg if there is enough interest. Of the mentors this spring, some were engaged with their clients, though many did nothing at all during the summer.

Partners for the program now are: YCAP, Yamhill Community Care, Hampton Lumber, Recology Organics, and Reid Rental of Newberg. Total value of contributions from these sources totaled about two thousand dollars (in cash and materials). Needed (badly) are Spanish-speakers as mentors. It is okay if the instructors are not certified Master Gardeners.

Demonstration Gardens: There are about 8 people actively maintaining the 2 gardens. The hideous Hinoki cypress trees were removed, making habitat room for a variety of shrubs and some small trees. The entire area at the fairgrounds is underlain with asphalt over gravel mixed with concrete construction debris. Since this makes a brutally discouraging environment for plants, all the garden must be in raised beds. For the trees, we even have a second layer of raised beds (of stone) over the initial layer. The soil beneath the Extension Office beds is hard clay, covered originally with landscape cloth. The cloth has been removed and we just have to cope with the clay.

The old nonfunctional fountain has been repurposed, and now makes an excellent display bed for a variety of sedum. We now have a new bubbler installed. Also removed were all the overgrown and dead plants along with the arbor and bench. Arbor and bench

were replaced. A permanent soil bin was constructed, with a mural now painted on the viewable side (and possibly more murals to come, on the other sides).

Goals to be reached in 2022:

- Tom to finish repairing the irrigation system.
 - Make a map of the watering system.
 - Stain all the fences and the overhang of the "pavilion."
 - Build raised beds for all plantings mentioned in next item.
 - Install foundation plantings around the soil bin and along the chain-link fence.
 - Hardwire the bubbler separately from the lights in the "pavilion."
 - Vastly improve signage.
 - Help Donn manage the office garden.
 - Reinstall hanging flower baskets.
- Thoughts have also been given to using QR codes on the signs, though that is not yet a concrete plan.

Spring-into-Gardening: The committee would like to shift the emphasis from Zoom lectures, to hands-on workshops. There is a myriad of topics from which to choose. Some could be:

- *Making hanging baskets*
- *Irrigation*
- *Vertical Gardens*
- *Roof Gardens*
- *Grafting*
- *Hydroponics*
- *Raised beds*
- *Perennial propagation*

But many others could be proposed. The goal is to have a sponsor for each workshop. Workshops would be at the ends of March, April, May, June, and September (rather than all in one weekend).

Locations could be at a sponsor's facility (such as a store), Lewis Pavilion, the Educational garden, the greenhouse, and the Community Garden. Since we have little to offer sponsors in the way of increased business, we had better provide them with year-long exposure and in general ingratiate ourselves

with them. A great deal of graphics help will be needed for the publicity, and Marcia (since she was not present) was volunteered for the job.

The need for publicity for the event is strong and needs to be planned carefully. In keeping with that is the need for a new name: preferably something catchy, relevant, and with serious alliteration. Plans for the workshops include:

- 1 to 4 workshops per subject
- Groups of no more than 10 for each workshop
- A fee of \$15.00 per workshop
- A much stronger focus on public attendees rather the predominance of Master Gardeners as it has been in the past.
- All Classes to feature a take-home project

Promotion of Involvement: One of the major challenges in doing all activities is lack of participation by other than about a dozen MG's. We had a discussion on how to motivate people, as even with personal 1:1 contact we have not had success.

In the *Grapevine* we will begin having more than just job descriptions, but we don't have details on that. This would be instead of a job fair. Sue suggested starting small, then gradually and constantly increasing the pressure on people. Emails from Carla appear to be considered too official and impersonal (nothing to do with the emails themselves, as Carla makes them informative, friendly, and as personal as she can) so emails to individuals should be more effective. Tom will distribute a list of contact information for all Master Gardeners.

Farmers' Markets: Though the Newberg Farmers' Market originally was basically D.O.A., it is improving. In fact, there appear to be more customers than vendors now, a distinct reversal from the past. We are planning to have a clinic there every week, but for now we have enough staff for only once every two weeks.

A "real" Farmers' Market is being started in Dundee (as opposed to the mostly-non-farm-products markets of late). Farmers'

Markets now charge a booth fee, which in theory OSU will pay. However, their unabashedly sluggish hierarchy means that we must pay the fees, and that hopefully in time OSU will pay.

Perennial Propagation: Pat and Marilyn are no longer supervising the operation, so replacements are needed. Patti is helping temporarily. Focus will be on education rather than production. Three people are now handling buying of unusual plants from small specialty nurseries.

Plant Sale: Committee members are working on a pro & con list for the next sale. It is being assumed that, with OSU's deeply conservative risk-averse outlook, everything will not yet be completely back to normal. So we won't be having the traditional indoors/in-person type of sale as far as we guess.

- Fewer plants will be produced.
- Plants produced will be mostly perennials.
- There will be fewer 1-gallon carryover plants.
- There will be more bought-in perennials.
- Prices will be higher for bought-in plants.
- Most prices will change.
- A 50% overall profit is the goal.
- Buy-ins will tend to be harder-to-propagate species.
- If an in-person sale is allowed in the spring, the budget will be altered.
- All the planning is now "skating on new, thin, and mushy ice" as Gin put it.

Community Garden: There are currently 23 beds and 27 gardeners, with all but 1 returnees. 107 beds are being used for production for YCAP and the Cooperative Ministries. Donations to YCAP totaled 15,323 pounds this year, and 2,525 pounds were donated to the Cooperative Ministries.

Sanitation is the focus for now as the products are all used for food. Tomato plants which were not sold during the plant sale were donated to various nonprofits, for the non-profits to sell.

Social/Memorials/Décor/
Hospitality/Sunshine/field trips.
"Social" is now a separate committee. Many felt that field trips are and should be termed "educational", though now they are considered just social interaction. Someone will run it by Heather, to see if she will accept the educational parts of field trips as such.

And now for...the Business Plan!

Last year we planned to overspend, but actually underspent, leaving us with \$8,024. Careful to get back to normal habits, we budgeted to spend \$3,543.50 too much for 2022.

We may get a \$500 grant from the Siletz Tribe—TBA. "Member events" line will be changed to "graduation."

Budgeting changes:

- Add \$200 for OMGA reps for travel.
- OMGA membership to \$350.
- Paypal fees to \$75.00.
- Community Garden to \$900.
- Greenhouse to \$750. (Down, as tables are done).
- Demo Garden, Fairgrounds, to \$1750.
- Website to \$625., as a once-every-3year fee is now due.
- Zoom down to \$0.00, because we really don't want to zoom ever again.
- Education/Outreach to \$400.
- Garden-to-Table to \$4850., which *should* be covered by a grant.
- *Grapevine* magazine from \$200 to \$0. (No longer needed for printing and mailing).
- Hospitality to \$200.
- Master Gardener training scholarships from \$0.00 to \$190.00, depending on need.
- Minority MG training scholarships for the classes are now required by OSU.
- Bilingual/minority scholarships (3) totaling \$570.

Spring-into-Gardening

- Add \$1200 for tentative workshops.
- Rental for venue add \$1200.
- Facilities fees add \$200.
- Snacks (no actual lunches) add \$200.
- Miscellaneous expenses add from zero to \$200.
- Publicity add \$200.
- Speaker payments add \$1200.

Important Note: At least some and possibly all of these costs for Spring-into-Gardening may be covered by admissions and sponsors. If so, we would just spend less than the budgeted amounts.

Plant Sale Expenses

- Plant labels \$200 to \$600, depending on in-stock condition at present.
- Purchase of perennials \$2,000 to \$2,500.
- "Shopify" fees from \$250 to \$500.

Notice: There will be a future board meeting to approve (or not) the proposed budgets, probably at November meeting.

Susanne reminded us that our rental time for zoom ended at 2:00 p.m., so the meeting did too. Polly seconded the termination.
