

Washington County Master Gardener Association

Minutes of August 9th 2024 Board Meeting at Extension Office

Attendees: Lisa Barnhart, Marilyn Berti, Deb Hansen, Mary Hewitt, Connie Kirby , Steve Kister, Dan McDonald, Harriet Ottaviano, Hope Preston, Sue Ryburn, Terry Wagner

Meeting called to order: By Hope Preston, President at 9 am.

BOARD REPORTS

Chapter Relations/Terry Wagner: Brief discussion of September awards. To be continued.

Treasurer /Connie Kirby: Budget meetings for 2025 in process. Bank transfer from Wells Fargo to On Point complete. On Point offering financial rewards for using some services, including credit card use.

Programs/Marilyn Berti: Cedar Mill Cider Festival is scheduled in October. May sell plants at the Festival. Last year there were 210 new contacts. Speakers Committee starting for 2025, info regarding speakers from Joy of Gardening are being considered. Suggest increase honorarium to \$200. Farmer's Markets are staffed for fall.

Communications/Steve Kister: Discussion about shortening Chapter Chat. Suggested that each garden submit a brief article and photos. Some discussion on length of articles

Fundraising/Lisa Barnhart : Proceeds from GardenFest 2024 plant sale about \$18K. Had budgeted for 12K . Discussed details from some expenses. **ACTION** Lisa will answer questions about the Blue Bags ,managing this program.

Publicity/Harriet Ottaviano: MGs who plan to teach a class, are asked to have a photo and short bio ready to share with Harriet. Harriet discussed print media coverage of Michaels' Donoghue's upcoming class at Jenkins Learning Garden on compositng.

Business /Dan McDonald: Discussed ongoing management of inventory and sorting previous business records.

Vice President/ Sue Ryburn Assembling a slate of board candidates for positions opening in 2025. Hope is renewing the nomination for President. Larina Hoffbeck accepted a nomination for Director of Programs. Connie will accept the Treasurer position. Vice President and Business Manager positions are open. **ACTION** Continuing to contact potential nominees.

OMGA / Debra Hansen: Joy of Gardening conference, very successful

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Social Scheduled September 21st for WCMGA members and interns. Discussion of ideas for activities. Planning meetings are scheduled.

DEI Committee - Discussion to add a position to the WCMGA Board as a Member Advocate for DEI, as a standalone role. Purpose would be to help members feel engaged and introduce interns to the Washington County MG program. Position would be as a Director. Leslie Madsen can be a resource. Discussion included considering DEI goals to be part of this position in addition to mentoring. Suggested to create a position description. **ACTION** Hope will organize a subcommittee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Visit with *Leslie Madsen, Master Gardener State Coordinator* – Hope reported a positive meeting of power points and conversations, noting Leslie's presentation. Ideas from Leslie Madsen include modifying the *Seed to Supper* program to make it more accessible. Leslie's position is full-time.

Intern status- 104 of our 2024 Cohort have finished their modules, out of 124 interns. Most are involved in chapter activities and are receiving the Chapter Chat.

OSU Program Support-Hope suggests that the chapter shares surplus funds with other related organizations in our community such as Oregon Flora Project. Suggestion to have a discussion at the next board meeting, and future budget committee meeting.

Upcoming: Next board meeting is September 20th.

Meeting adjourned at 11 am by Hope Preston.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Mary Hewitt, Recording Secretary/ August 10th, 2024