



Washington County Master Gardener™ Association

December 13, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes /10 am at Washington County Extension Office

Attendance: Lisa Barnhart, Marilyn Berti, Stephanie Engle, Deb Hansen, Mary Hewitt, Larina Hoffbeck, Connie Kirby, Dan McDonald, Harriet Ottaviano, Hope Preston, Tera Ramsey, Sue Ryburn, Terri Wagner

Absent: Steve Kister

Guest: Srijana Shrestha

Hope Preston, President, opened the meeting at 10 am. Hope recognized new Board members: Tera Ramsey, Vice President; Stephanie Engle, Business Manager; Larina Hoffbeck, Program Director.

Cards were presented to outgoing Board members: Sue Ryburn, Vice President; Dan McDonald, Business Manager; Marilyn Berti, Program Director.

Motion made, seconded and approved to move May, 2025 board meeting to May 16th, 2025 to avoid conflict with setup of GardenFest plant clearance sale.

REPORTS

Chapter Relations/ Terry Wagner

Discussion about Spring Social scheduled for February 15, 2025 to be held at Beaverton City Library; 2-3 pm setup, 3-5 pm and 5-6 pm takedown. Suggestions for tables for event: Volunteers, G1G1, GardenFest, Learning Garden, Education Garden, Study Group, LFL for book donations/blue bags/other available fund-raising opportunities.

Jorie Helwig was selected for MG of Note for January, 2025. Sue and Harriet will collaborate for the Chapter Chat article.

Treasurer/Connie Kirby

74 members have renewed to date. The 2024 Interns are not required to pay for 2025 membership. In the following years, interns will have free membership in WCMGA during the intern year. As perennials, they will pay membership dues.

Connie reports a recent donation, which amounts to approximately half of the 2025 budget for membership.

Programs/ Marilyn Berti

Marilyn introduced Larina Hoffbeck, who will serve as Program Manager, 2025-27. The December *Programs* report was reviewed, below. *2025 Calendar of Public Events* nearly finished for copy and distribution. High turnout with 128 attendees for Monthly Chapter Meeting, December 3rd. Marilyn purchased resources that supplement materials for the public at tabling events. Increased budget available for new initiatives for 2025. Marilyn suggested coordinating dates of events so that sufficient volunteers are available to staff major events such as GardenFest.

Communications/Steve Kister

Continuing publication of monthly Chapter Chat.

Fundraising/ Lisa Barnhart

The kickoff meeting for GardenFest has been held. Lisa continues to look for software to help with labeling and inventory for GardenFest.

Publicity/ Harriet Ottaviano

January 2025 events are publicized. The Ed Garden brochure is at the printers. The Learning Garden brochure will be completed in early 2025 and the Chapter brochure after that.

Business Manager/Dan McDonald

Dan introduced Stephanie Engle who will serve as Business Manager 2025-27. Inventory is completed for WCMGA physical property and valued @ \$100K. Current insurance coverage is adequate. Policy quotes for 2025 are remaining steady or reducing in invoice amounts.

Vice President/ Sue Ryburn

Sue introduced Tera Ramsey who will serve as Vice President during 2025-27.

OMGA/ Deb Hansen

Deb reported that OMGA is working on additional planning, that includes advocacy work with the State Legislature.

OLD BUSINESS

OSU Program Support-Srijana Shrestha, Metro Master Gardener Assistant Professor of Practice explained sources of funding for the Master Gardener program in Washington County and the needs for additional funding for support staff. WCMGA is donating \$7500 to support 2025 staff funding. Srijana is seeking more funds for funding Washington County Extension positions through grant writing. These donations will be used to support the staff position of Amy Espinoza, Master Gardener Education Program Assistant. This position is 100% dedicated to support of the Washington County Master Gardener Program.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Standing Rule Change*- Proposed language regarding payment of dues by interns: "Dues for interns will be waived the year they take their training. Membership dues to WCMGA for 2024 interns are to be waived for 2025."

Connie moved to accept the standing rule update; Dan seconded, and the Board unanimously approved. 2024 interns, who have already paid 2025 dues, will advise Connie if they wish to be reimbursed, or donate payment to WCMGA,

- *ZOOM Links*- WCMGA committees may use the WCMGA Zoom link. May coordinate use of Zoom by scheduling on website members' calendar for Zoom meetings. The communications committee members may assist and update the calendar to indicate Zoom meetings.

This use of the members' only website calendar will be explained at the Members' January 2025 Chapter meeting.

- *GATHERING GARDENERS* Hope will suggest next meeting will be to meet at a coffee shop, She will communicate this to Minoo and Lakshmi and ask Lakshmi and Minoo to update Chapter Chat with more news.

State of the Chapter 2024- Hope asked board members to update the 2023 report as pertains to each members' responsibilities. Hope will prepare 2024 Chapter Update Report- State of the Chapter. Submit by December 31st.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am

Minutes prepared by Mary Hewitt, Recording Secretary
Approved by Hope Preston, President

ADDENDUM

December Program Director Report- Marilyn Berti

