

Master Gardeners of Rutherford County Board Meeting

June 7, 2016

Officers Present: Vice President, Autumn Shultz, Treasurer, Joy Anderton, Secretary, Lee Etta Cadotte, VP Outreach Jenny Byrum.

Other Recognized Members: Floyd Adams & Janie Becker (Extension Agent).

The regular monthly meeting of RCMG Board was called to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Community Center Building at Lane Agri Park in Murfreesboro, TN. Motion by Joy and seconded to approve the April Board minutes with corrections. Joy presented the Financial report for May 2016. Cash on hand at the end of the month was \$13,158.93. Motion by Autumn & seconded to accept the Financial report.

Discussion ensued about members who are ill and the current status of our Sunshine Team. Per Janie, we have no specific guidelines for who, when, where or how the Sunshine Team becomes involved. There are (2) members who have taken it upon themselves to act as part of the Sunshine Team, Teresa Fly & Linda Lunday. The Board discussed our desire to increase rapport within the group by recognizing birthdays, asking for member announcements, causes for concern, good news, reaching out to members who have become inactive & noting those who are ill. The idea of a monthly list of upcoming birthdays was reviewed. It was noted that Linda Lindquist may already have a list of birthdays compiled and she should be questioned about that. We also felt that perhaps the monthly list of birthdays could be posted on Facebook by Marty Boyce. Jenny will check with Marty about that idea. We did decide that each Association meeting should have an item on the Agenda to address this as well. Another idea was to incorporate these items into the Power Point presentation which is shown before our meeting. This item will be addressed in greater detail at our next Board meeting.

Demo Garden – Autumn advised us that there are several plant beds which still need to be planted in the Demo Garden. Per Janie we can still plant seed for squash, melon, beans and basil. The money budgeted for our Demo Veggie Garden has been spent. Autumn was advised to review her need for funds & submit a request to the Board for additional funds from this year's budget.

Janie gave her report:

- 1) RCMG has been chosen to provide the table decorations for the June 30th TEMG Central Region Meeting at Ellington Ag Center in Nashville. There is a budget of \$400 for decorations to cover (12) 5' by 6' tables, using a patriotic theme. Jenny Byrum volunteered to coordinate this item.
- 2) Janie presented the Board with information about our new TEMG Statewide Resource Team (Education). This "team" will compile a centralized listing of resources available within TN such as what presentations are available to share, printed items etc. Each local MG Association is charged with creating a team within to review what items the local Association has available and relaying that information to a Regional team. Janie will explain this program in greater detail at our next Association meeting. The State forms are set to be returned by 7/15/16. One of RCMG major accomplishments is the classes presented at the Farmers Market which are recorded.

- 3) Farmers Market merchandise sale: Joy reviewed the answers which she received from the letter she addressed to the accountant. Our Bylaws state that education and engagement are the purpose of RCMG. There was discussion about what relationship exists between selling this merchandise & our stated mission. These sales would require RCMG to remit sales tax & file income tax because the gross profit would be greater than \$1000. Sales are being offered now, until the current inventory is exhausted. RCMG would purchase & maintain the inventory. Any order for additional inventory is on hold, until the Board decides whether or not to continue supporting these sales. The subject of filing tax returns and tracking inventory became a cause for concern. We are uncertain as to the complexity of these tax returns, what tax rate is charged & how much additional workload this would create for Joy. Joy indicated that she would require some oversight to confirm matters were handled correctly. Of note, there is only a small amount of money designated for accounting in our budget. We do not have the funds to pay someone to prepare and file these returns. RC Extension will not remit sales taxes. Thus, they can't operate these sales. Jenny volunteered her husband's services to research this topic further as he is an auditor who has experience dealing with similar programs for Little League. Also, now questioned is whether our concession sales at the Farmers Market are subject to these same tax filing rules. If RCMG does decide to continue offering merchandise sales, an undecided portion of the profits would be donated to RC Farmers Market (an outreach program of RC Extension).

Old business: The (2) vacant leadership positions have been filled. Linda Lindquist will oversee the Butterfly Garden & Janet Whitmore has agreed to act as Historian. Janet plans to work on a timeline for MG to depict our history since inception. Our annual Plant Swap held in April brought in \$612 from sales & 480 cans of food were donated to Journey Home. A broader review of the Plant Swap will be discussed at the next Association meeting where it will be an item on the Agenda.

Jenny presented the Board with some ideas she has for increasing RCMG presence at the Saturday Farmers Market on the Murfreesboro square. She questioned what signage MG has available and will look into that further. In addition, Jenny has ideas for PR and will address the next Association on this.

Thumb drives were put together for the 2016 MG Intern class. There are some available for purchase from Rebecca Cowan for \$5.00. The Board committed to a plan for staffing a "welcome table" at each meeting. This helps to create comradery between members & allows us to make a point of greeting and signing in our guests.

New Business: None stated. Motion by Jenny & seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Etta Cadotte

Lee Etta Cadotte, Secretary